

Amnesty's reports of crimes by security forces all lies, Algeria says

BRUSSELS (AP) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf accused Amnesty International Thursday of siding with Islamist terrorists and linking security forces to violence in Algeria that has claimed some 75,000 lives since 1992.

"Amnesty International quotes anonymous sources... their reports are lies," Mr. Attaf told the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee. "Amnesty has betrayed the human rights cause for which it stands."

He criticised AI for calling Algerian terrorists "the armed opposition" in a recent report. "Armed opposition? People who slit people's throats, rape, murder and torture? It's shameful and unacceptable."

Violence erupted in Algeria after the cancellation of 1992 elections which the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front was expected to win. Since then at least 75,000 people have died.

Amnesty reported this month that the violence had escalated over the past year. "Thousands of men, women, children and elderly people have been slaughtered, decapitated, mutilated or burned alive

in their homes. Babies and elderly people have been hacked to death," it said in a report.

It said while the authorities blame Islamist groups it refuses to investigate the role its security forces play in the violence.

The government has banned AI from visiting Algeria because, Mr. Attaf said, "we know who is responsible for the killings. The terrorists openly claim responsibility for their acts."

Yet he invited European Parliament members to Algeria.

The EU assembly agreed in September to send a delegation to meet with Algerian deputies to assess the situation in the country, especially rights violations by the government.

Algeria and the EU are soon to resume negotiations for an accord that includes a progressive removal of trade barriers, regular political consultations and a clause committing both sides to respect human rights. Mr. Attaf said the success of the talks depend partly on the EU's unequivocal stance against terrorism in Algeria.

On Wednesday — after meeting with Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques

Little known of Islamist group blamed for massacres

ALGERIA (AP) — Little is known for certain about the Armed Islamist Group (GIA) — its numbers, its backers, its programme. It is not even clear whether its leader, Antar Zouabri, is dead or alive. He has twice been reported killed.

What is known is that the GIA, as it is commonly called, started as a multitude of groups that came together to rival the more organised Islamic Salvation Army in the insurgency that began in 1992. Its main base of operations is the Moudja Plain, just south of Algiers.

Algerians who volunteered to fight with the Afghan Mujahideen against the Soviet army in the 1980s are said to make up the hard core of GIA ranks. Some massacre survivors say their killers wore Afghan-style garb.

Sociologist Abdelnasser Djabi of Algiers University said the prototype of a GIA recruit is a single, unemployed man in his 20s, with little schooling and a poor command of French or Arabic — an outcast.

Small-time criminals also number among the GIA, according to scholars.

There are widespread allegations the Algerian secret service has infiltrated the GIA.

Crude weapons — knives, hammers and

hoes — are used in attacks, as well as Kalashnikov rifles and powerful bombs. European investigators have followed a weapons supply trail to eastern Europe.

The GIA is known to control some villages or neighbourhoods in the Mitidja, demanding food, supplies and a revolutionary tax from residents. Some massacre survivors say they recognised the killers — local boys. In other villages, frightened residents have fled, abandoning all to the GIA.

In Ouled Allel, one such village, the Algerian Army says it has uncovered bunkers stockpiled with arms or bomb-making material and booty from raids. The area, it says, has been completely mined.

What no one can explain is the GIA's leap from combat to carnage, or how it justifies its actions in the name of Islam. Rare communiqués make clear the GIA seeks to topple the military-backed government and install an Islamist state but do not define a programme.

"The explosions in their homes and fortified cities, the continuous massacres and the blood flowing everywhere... is a grace from God," reads one GIA communiqué.

Poos, whose country holds the EU Presidency — he urged EU governments to stop sheltering opponents

to his government under the guise of political asylum. He said such shelter lets

terrorists to "mobilise money, ship arms and make political propaganda."



FOOD RATIONS: An Iraqi woman carries home her ration of food Friday in Baghdad. A United Nations official said on Thursday that Iraq was unwilling to renew its oil-for-food deal with the U.N. intended to lessen the impact of those sanctions on ordinary Iraqis until problems with implementation of the programme were solved. In terms of U.N. resolutions, weapons inspectors have to give Iraq a clean bill of health before sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted (Reuters photo)

Palestinians arrested with weapons in car

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli army arrested several Palestinians after blowing open their car and finding firearms and a silencer. The Israeli army spokesman said Thursday.

The group was on their way into Israeli-held territory on the outskirts of

Palestinian-controlled Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Israel's Channel 2 TV said there were four Palestinians in the car, and they were arrested after the driver refused to open the trunk for a search at a road-block.

Soldiers manning the

checkpoint summoned a bomb disposal expert who carried out a "controlled explosion" of the car, after which the arms were found, Channel 2 TV said.

Palestinian officials urged Israel to release the Palestinians, arguing that they were not about to carry out a terrorist attack.

Israel's Army Radio said. The officials said the men had been hired by the Palestinian National Authority to repair the weapons, the radio reported.

But an army spokesman said "the fact that they were trying to enter territory under Israel's responsi-

bility with weapons indicates that they posed a threat."

"The matter is under investigation," he added, and refused to give further details.

He said several were arrested but did not give the number.

Former Iranian president defends Khamenei's supremacy

TEHRAN (AP) — Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday defended the supremacy of leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei against recent challenges, saying his power was in the best interests of the country.

"Our dear leader has had a truly shining performance. He took control of a wrecked country eight years ago and has made it into a prosperous and strong state," Mr. Rafsanjani said in a speech before weekly Muslim prayers at Tehran University.

"If our country is still vivacious and revolutionary we owe it to a strong leadership," he said.

"Let's not raise questions about the essence and strong pillar of the revolution and make our enemies happy," said Mr. Rafsanjani, who stepped down in August after serving two four-year terms as president.

He was responding to

recent challenges posed to Velayat Faqih, the post of supreme Islamic ruler occupied by Ayatollah Khamenei, the successor to the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The main objection came from Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, a one-time heir apparent to Ayatollah Khomeini who was disgraced in 1989 for repeatedly criticising the regime.

Ayatollah Montazeri, 75, accused him of oversteering in politics and questioned his religious qualifications for the post of velayat, which was invented after the 1979 revolution to ensure the survival of the Islamic government.

But Mr. Rafsanjani said "if it weren't for Velayati we would not be able to impose stability after the revolution, to fight the [1980-1988] war against Iraq or embark on the [post-war] reconstruction drive."

"Let's not try to find faults

and create a sense of anxiety in the society. We need Velayati in the future," warned the former president, who is Ayatollah Khamenei's top adviser as head of the Expediency Council.

Mr. Rafsanjani said he believed in freedom of expression, but warned that opinion on "sensitive" issues had to be voiced through appropriate channels.

"I am for freedom but this is not the way to exercise it. If there are any suggestions, voice them in the right way," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei himself has asserted his authority to end political unrest and fierce factional fighting over the challenges to his rule, ordering Wednesday the prosecution of those who "act illegally and commit treason" against the regime, including the dissident cleric Ayatollah Montazeri.

Booby-trapped car explodes in Yemen, no victims

U.S. oil worker in 'good shape' after kidnap ordeal in Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — A booby-trapped car exploded on Thursday in front of a government building in the northern Yemen town of Saada, but there were no casualties, the interior ministry said in remarks Friday.

"The initial investigations show that the explosion has criminal origins... and is the result of a time bomb," a ministry spokesman told Al Thawra newspaper.

A security source said there were no casualties, but the blast destroyed three cars parked outside the municipal building in Saada, 200 kilometres north of the Sanaa.

The source said the Yemeni authorities are "carrying out their investigation to find out the motives of those responsible for the criminal act."

The blast is the second car bomb to go off in Yemen this month. In mid-November, a booby-trapped car exploded in front of a commercial centre in Aden, the principal city in the south, without causing any victims.

Two trials of about 60 people charged with carrying out explosions earlier in the year opened this month in Sanaa and Aden.

The authorities have

made several arrests, among them members of the opposition, and have implicated two opposition parties, the Yemen Socialist Party and League of Yemen Sons, in the attacks.

In another development, the U.S. embassy in Sanaa on Friday said an American executive freed Thursday by a Yemeni tribe that held him hostage for almost a month was in "good shape."

Steve Carpenter, who runs a local service for the oil industry, was seized from the centre of Sanaa on Oct. 30 by four armed tribesmen, but was released

on Thursday.

"He is in good shape," a U.S. embassy spokesman told AFP, adding that Mr. Carpenter had returned to his apartment in the Yemeni capital.

The spokesman said he did not know if Mr. Carpenter had any plans to leave Yemen after being held by kidnappers, who were demanding the release of two members of their clan jailed for drug trafficking.

Security forces arrested "the key perpetrator of the abduction after storming the kidnappers' hideaway," a Yemeni security official

said on Thursday, adding that no-one was reported injured during the operation.

The official did not say if the kidnappers' demands had been met.

Mr. Carpenter was being held in the Barar region, 160 kilometres northeast of the Yemeni capital.

Yemen's unruly and heavily armed tribes have been responsible for kidnapping more than 100 foreigners over the last five years, to use as bargaining chips in negotiations with the government.

They have all been released unharmed.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO	
14:10	Twinkle
14:30	Muppet Show
15:00	Pumpkin Patch
15:15	World of Geo
16:00	The Valley Between
16:30	Neighbours
17:00	French programmes
17:00	Le Journal
19:30	News headlines
20:00	The Newly Weds
20:30	Prism
21:10	Time Trax
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Bridge of Silence"
23:59	Ellen

PRAYER TIMES	
04:50	Fajr
06:11	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:24	Dhuhr
14:12	Asr
16:36	Maghreb
17:58	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swoffeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church	Tel. 661656
Terra Sancta Church	Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

622366	Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 623541
652826	Anglican Church	Tel. 652826
771331	Armenian Catholic Church	Tel. 771331
775261	Armenian Orthodox Church	Tel. 775261
771751	St. Ephraim Church	Tel. 771751
5516245	Armenian International Church	Tel. 5516245
824328	Evangelical Lutheran Church	Tel. 824328
845457	German-speaking Evangelical	Congregation Tel. 845457
654932	The Latter-Day Saints	Tel. 654932
675691	Church of Nazareth	Tel. 675691
811295	The Evangelical Local Church	in Amman Tel. 811295
614190	English-speaking	Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
622366	Church of the Annunciation
623541	Church of the Annunciation
652826	Anglican Church
771331	Armenian Catholic Church
775261	Armenian Orthodox Church
771751	St. Ephraim Church
5516245	Armenian International Church
824328	Evangelical Lutheran Church
845457	German-speaking Evangelical
654932	The Latter-Day Saints
675691	Church of Nazareth
811295	The Evangelical Local Church
614190	English-speaking
614190	Latin Catholics Parish

NIGHT DUTY	
Dr. Hanna Mansour	750197
Dr. Afif Shukri	898863
Dr. Sa'ad Jawfiq	788285
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh	827195
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	

Dr. Ahmad Qann	81484
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rafiq Attallah	994424

Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
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EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192	621111
637777	
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	775111/26
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101

Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/52
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Alkaleh Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine Shmeisani	607071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666126/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)933323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	807071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	815845
Al-Muasher Hospital.667227/9	
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37	
Al-AhE, Abdali	664164/6
Italian. Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15

Queen inaugurates tenth United World College during India visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — During a one-day visit to India, Her Majesty Queen Noor, president of the United World Colleges (UWC), Thursday inaugurated the tenth Mahindra UWC in Pune, according to a press release Friday.

Founded in 1962, the UWC is an equal opportunity international secondary education programme designed to foster cross-cultural understanding and global peace. The UWCs, which select students from throughout the world based on merit and award the majority scholarships, have emphasised diverse community service programmes within their educational curricula, the statement continued.

In her keynote address, Queen Noor described India as "the most appropriate home for a United World College" as the site of one of "humanity's oldest civilisations" and its rich spirituality. She added that the personification of India's legacy of pacifism and humanism is Mahatma Gandhi, who led his country to independence through non-violent resistance and who will continue to be "an example for those who believe that the course of history can be changed through peaceful means," the press release read.

Queen Noor paid tribute to South African President Nelson Mandela, president of the UWC International Council, saying, "his inspiring support for the UWCs reflects his wider commitment to peace, tolerance, equality, and democracy." President Mandela's children and grandchildren were educated at UWC Swaziland, which he regarded as "an island of non-racism in the sea of apartheid," according to the statement.

The Queen expressed her hope that the UWC will also soon expand its involvement



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday delivers the keynote address at the inauguration of the tenth United World College in India

in the Middle East, which "would benefit greatly from a more substantial involvement in the UWC movement with its experience in nurturing forces for dialogue and peace." She noted that the young people of the region, "because of their particularly traumatic history, can contribute a special perspective to the UWC movement."

She said UWC graduates "should return home feeling that their education has not only helped them to develop their own character and capabilities," but has also enabled them to address "pressing issues in their own societies and the world."

She added that one of the greatest challenges is to "nurture young leaders in different fields who can mobilise local communities to achieve sustained economic growth and progress." She concluded by quoting the late Mother Teresa, who once said "we ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But

if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

During the inauguration ceremony, Queen Noor received three messages from President Mandela, the president of Italy and Prince Charles, who was the international president of UWC, the announcement continued.

Prince Charles recalled how his uncle, Lord Mountbatten, the first international president of the UWC, told him years ago "of his hope that there would one day be a college on the Indian subcontinent." Prince Charles added that "during my time as international president, we did not realise his dream, although I tried very hard."

Students at the eight UWCs, located in Wales, Italy, Canada, Singapore, the U.S., Swaziland, Hong Kong, and Norway, study for the International Baccalaureate degree, a pre-university qualification, while the ninth

college in Venezuela offers a three-year diploma course in farm management and rural development, according to the statement.

Mahindra College, whose motto is "The World is One Family," is the first two-year residential, full scholarship college in the developing world. It currently has 98 students from 57 countries, including Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt. It will dedicate its social programmes to nearby rural communities, while India's rich and varying ecosystem will help students focus on various aspects of environmental protection, the statement read.

As UWC president, Queen Noor inaugurated the ninth UWC college in Norway with Queen Sonja, hosted the UWC's first regional conference in the Middle East, and participated in UWC fundraising events and activities in South Africa, Swaziland, the U.K., the U.S., and Canada, the statement concluded.

Jordan's participation in Islamic conference significant — ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Iranian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ali Subhani Friday said Jordan's participation in the upcoming Organisation of Islamic Conference in Tehran assumes great significance in view of His Majesty King Hussein's participation.

The meeting, scheduled for December 9-11, will examine the question of Jerusalem, he said, adding that Jordan has prepared a special exhibition on the sidelines of the summit to highlight the Kingdom's contributions towards the

restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque.

Noting that the coming summit is to be attended by 6,000 Islamic personalities and 1,500 journalists, Mr. Subhani said Iran was looking forward to His Majesty King Hussein's participation.

The King's visit will be an opportunity for discussing ways to promote Jordanian-Iranian relations, he stated.

The ambassador said the summit would most likely discuss a proposal by HRH Crown Prince Hassan for the creation of an international

Zakat (alms to the poor) fund as part of inter-Islamic cooperation.

Present inter-Islamic economic and trade relations are very poor, he added.

Closer cooperation among Islamic nations is required to solve economic problems and create an Arab-Islamic common market to help Muslims properly exploit their vast natural resources for development purposes, according to Mr. Subhani.

The official agenda of the upcoming meeting includes examining developments in the Palestinian issue, settling

differences among Muslim nations, and creating mechanisms for promoting economic cooperation, he said.

In addition, he said, the leaders of Muslim nations will discuss the rights of Muslims in non-Islamic countries and ways for bolstering cultural cooperation to counter Western anti-Islamic propaganda.

The Islamic summit, the ambassador concluded, is to be preceded by two preliminary meetings, one at the expert level and the other at the foreign minister level, to finalise the summit's agenda.

U.N. special committee reiterates support for UNRWA refugee work

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (Fourth Committee) of the U.N. General Assembly Wednesday adopted seven resolutions related to the work of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), according to a UNRWA press release Thursday.

This followed a day-long debate in the committee on Nov. 24, during which UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen presented his annual report to the General Assembly and the 1998-1999 biennial budget of UNRWA. Twenty-six delegations made statements in support of UNRWA's work, the statement continued.

The Fourth Committee annually reviews the work of UNRWA and submits a report and draft resolutions for approval by the General Assembly, which established the agency in December 1949 as a temporary measure to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian refugees pending a resolution of the Palestine problem. The Assembly will vote on the resolutions in full plenary session in early December, according to the announcement.

The main resolution, entitled "Assistance to Palestine Refugees," was adopted by a vote of 126 in favour to one against (Israel), with two abstentions (Cameroun and the United States). Introducing the resolution, the representative of Luxembourg, speaking for the European Union (EU), congratulated the UNRWA staff for their work on behalf of the refugees and called on members to give special attention

to the agency's financial situation, which, she said, was "growing more critical from year to year."

A resolution endorsing the report of the General Assembly's Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA was adopted by consensus, without a vote. It expressed "deep concern about the persisting critical financial situation of the agency," which, it said, was affecting the continued provision of necessary services to Palestinian refugees, including emergency-related programmes, the statement continued.

Introducing the resolution on financing, the delegate of the Netherlands noted that there was a serious risk that, due to a lack of funds, UNRWA would not be able to carry out fully its humanitarian programme in the coming year.

In a statement after the voting, the representative of the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations expressed thanks for the support shown and paid tribute to the "valuable and indispensable work of UNRWA."

Three themes dominated the Fourth Committee's debate on UNRWA this year: the deadlocked Middle East peace process, the important role of UNRWA in the lives of the more than 3.4 million Palestinian refugees, and the agency's serious financial crisis, the press release read.

Introducing his report, Mr. Hansen said UNRWA and the refugees had "suffered together and have together achieved those successes for which UNRWA is lauded." The first full year following the relocation of UNRWA's headquarters to Gaza had been one of problems and challenges for the Agency,

from which, with internal restructuring and reform, it hoped to emerge stronger and more efficient, he said.

Being on the scene in the area allowed UNRWA headquarters staff better to see and feel the tribulations of the Palestinian refugees. The most striking problem was that of closures imposed on Gaza and the West Bank, which had devastating effects on the daily lives of the refugees and also hindered the work of UNRWA staff by limiting their freedom of movement, the statement continued.

"It has been widely recognised that the collective nature of the measures imposed on the Palestinians cannot possibly lead to either security or peace," Mr. Hansen told the committee.

Turning to UNRWA's financial crisis, he said five years of austerity measures had taken their toll. The level and quality of education, health, and relief and social services had eroded to below traditional and acceptable norms, he said. Over the past five years, UNRWA's budget has not been fully funded by donor contributions, forcing the agency to freeze or reduce expenditures, according to the announcement.

At first, cuts had been limited to support areas which did not directly affect services. But when, in August of this year, the cumulative deficit had been projected to reach \$70 million by the end of 1997, and the agency facing "technical bankruptcy" if \$20 million of that was not covered immediately, Mr. Hansen said he had been forced to introduce more direct measures, including a freeze on the recruitment of teachers, a freeze on hospital-

isation subsidies, and, for the first time, the proposed levying of school fees.

The announcement provoked an outcry in the community. Emergency pledges from donors of some \$20 million for the General Fund enabled some of the measures, including the school fees and hospitalisation freeze, to be revoked and UNRWA scraped through 1997, the statement read.

However, Mr. Hansen said, if UNRWA received the same amount in contributions in 1998 as in 1997 it would still face a cumulative deficit of \$45 million next year. He said he hoped the 1998 budget of \$314 million would be fully funded so that UNRWA could begin to roll back the most damaging austerity measures.

Mr. Hansen stated that the Agency's ongoing financial crisis had "made the refugees very nervous all over the area of operations." They were convinced, he said, that the lack of adequate financing was part of a "conspiracy to phase out UNRWA" before a solution to their problem was found.

Any diminution in UNRWA services was seen as a dilution of the international commitment and obligation to the refugees, of which UNRWA was a symbol. These concerns had been heightened by the hails in the various tracks of the peace process, Mr. Hansen said.

But, despite the problems and delays, he remained hopeful that the process would ultimately move forward. Of far greater concern, he said, were the threats to UNRWA's ability to keep delivering services year after year, in a financially untenable situation, the announcement concluded.

New representatives briefed on badia research programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Newly-elected parliamentary representatives of badia and bedouin settlements Thursday met with Sharif Zaid Bint Naser, head of public relations at the Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme (JBRDP), and were briefed on the programme's achievements and objectives.

Sharif Zaid told the deputies, who represent tribal constituencies in the northern, central, and southern districts, that the programme aims at exploiting the resources found in the badia (desert and arid) regions, raising the standard of living of residents through the utilisation of

manpower and natural resources, and combating desertification, among other objectives.

She said the badia, which constitutes nearly 80 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom, is arid land but contains a wealth of untapped natural resources. The programme for developing the area is being implemented in conjunction with a number of institutions in Jordan and abroad, including the Higher Council for Science and Technology and donor nations, she said.

JBRDP Director Mohammad Shahbaz outlined the programme's achievements since its founding in 1992, noting that the team in

charge of the programme has conducted 50 surveys and studies on the local population, prepared an integrated plan for the area's development, and established a special badia fund to finance research.

He said the studies covered creating earth dams in association with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Jordan Armed Forces and included a general inoculation of the sheep in the badia in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Also Thursday, Sharif Zaid distributed gifts to 140 orphans in the badia region on the occasion of the Al Isra'a Wal Mi'raj holy feast.

Olive products can be brought from W. Bank — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha Friday announced that olives and olive oil can be brought into the country, as gifts only, from the occupied West Bank for two months.

Mr. Khreisha said 50,000 20-litre containers of olive oil and 30,000 10-kilogramme containers of olives will be allowed in between Nov. 11, 1997 and Jan. 31, 1998.

The containers can be brought in once only as gifts by travellers entering Jordan from the Palestinian self-rule areas at the rate of three containers in each category, he said.

A report on the amounts brought into Jordan will be presented to the Ministry of Agriculture every week to enable the operation to be controlled, he added.

According to the minister, these gifts of olives and olive oil can be brought into Jordan via the King Hussein Bridge or the Jordan Valley border crossing point only. Trucks can continue carrying different types of agricultural products, including olives and olive oil, across the Prince Mohammad Bridge and through Jordanian territory to destinations in the Gulf states according to the present arrangement, he said.

Jordanians can carry gifts of olives and olive oil when travelling to the Gulf states at the rate of three containers of each kind between Nov. 25, 1997 and Jan. 31, 1998, he added.

The minister also noted that gifts of two containers of white cheese, one tank of molasses, and five kilogrammes of honey can also be brought into Jordan from the West Bank once only.

Engineers to meet with deputies to discuss demands

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) is planning to hold a series of meetings with deputies and senators to explain their views on the allowances that public sector agricultural engineers are demanding from the government. JAEA President Hassan Jaber announced

Friday. The association is demanding that the agricultural engineers receive 180 per cent as their professional allowance and a 60 per cent overtime allowance, both double the present rate.

In addition, Mr. Jaber said, the agricultural engineers are asking that they receive additional allowances when working under certain severe conditions, as provided for in regulations, and that all engineers, whether working on projects or full-time jobs, be treated equally.

The JAEA general assembly will meet Saturday to discuss a mechanism for resuming its dialogue with the government to secure these rights, according to Mr. Jaber, who said that the JAEA last month formed a 45-member committee to pursue this task.

The association last month decided to postpone any strike action for 30 days to give the government sufficient time to consider their case, he added.

The JAEA will also exert all possible efforts to help unemployed engineers find jobs, he stated.

At present, Jordan has 6,500 registered agricultural engineers, of whom 1,250 are employed by the public sector, he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FIFTH JORDANIAN THEATRE FESTIVAL

* Play entitled "Blue...Green" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Two films entitled "Piccoli orori" (Little Horrors) and "Trafitti da un raggio di sole" (Pierced by a Ray of Sunlight), with subtitles in English, at Samir Al Rifa'i auditorium, University of Jordan at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

BOOK EXHIBITION

* 10th Annual Book Exhibition at the Ablyyah School for Girls, Jabal Amman until Nov. 29.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

* Annual YWCA Christmas classical choir on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday (3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th Dec. '97) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

SLIDE LECTURE

* Slide lecture: "The Orient of Roman Cities" (on the cities of Philadelphia (Amman), Jerash, Palmyra, Apamea,

Antioch, Basra, Caesarea, Scythopolis and Sebastiyeh) by Catherine Courtis at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh at 6:30 p.m.

* Paintings by Ammar Khamash at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Dec. 12.

* Paintings by Saadi Al-Kaabi at Orient Gallery (Tel. 681303/4), until Dec. 4.

* An exhibition of prints by Algerian artist Koraishi, and calligraphy by Iraqi artist Massoudi, inspired by the poems of Mahmoud Darwish, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Dec. 31. Also displaying paintings by Jordanian artist Nasr Abdul Aziz, and works by contemporary Arab artists.

* "Portrait '97" — works by over thirty Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina, until Nov. 30.

* Works by Khalid Khreis at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Dec. 10.

* Exhibition of wallhangings and weavings by Bashar Katherm and others at Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 699131/2) until Dec. 4.

* "Journey Within" by Pakistani artist Gulgee and his son, sculptor Amin Gulgee, at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (Tel. 630128), until Dec. 15.

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on the occasion of her appointment
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by a Royal Decree issued by
His Majesty King Hussein

May God bless this achievement for
the service of the people of Jordan.
Also heartfelt wishes to His Majesty.

DAR

RRIVALS

U.S. swallows lower-than-expected NATO enlargement cost

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A NATO study which puts the cost of the alliance's eastward expansion at a mere \$1.3 billion over 10 years was reportedly endorsed Thursday by a red-faced United States which had calculated a figure nearly 10 times higher.

A North Atlantic Treaty Organisation official, speaking anonymously, said all 16 members of the alliance — including the United States — had accepted the figure as the likely cost of the recent invitation to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to join NATO in 1999.

The estimate was made public earlier this month, to the deep embarrassment of

the United States which in February put the cost at between \$8 and \$12 billion.

Washington's European allies had denounced the U.S. figure as being inflated to make domestic political and industrial capital out of the enlargement decision.

Signs of a U.S. turnaround were first seen last month when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Senate meeting that the cost of integrating the new members' armed forces "will turn out to be lower than we estimated in February."

The study endorsed by NATO Thursday was based on reports made by the alliance's Atlantic and European strategic com-

mands, both headed by American military chiefs. It is to go before NATO's defence ministers for final approval next week.

Taking into account the disappearance of the Soviet threat, the study stated that "the cost of enlarging NATO to take in three eastern European countries will be \$1.3 billion over 10 years," the official said.

According to diplomats, NATO is expected to spend \$700 million in helping Poland integrate into the alliance, \$266 million for the Czech Republic and \$315 million for Hungary. The bulk of the cost is to be absorbed by the new members.

Much of the money could be found in existing bud-

gets through a redirection of credits, the NATO official said. This position is firmly backed by France and Germany, which had previously expressed reluctance to increasing their contributions.

According to another study approved Thursday, the NATO members decided that in reality it would cost nothing more for them to come to the military aid of the three new members, if required.

The endorsed estimate is likely to be well received by the U.S. Congress, which had feared enlargement would prove exorbitant to the United States, NATO's biggest contributor. In 1995, the country paid around a quarter of the

alliance's total \$2 billion budget.

The U.S. estimate put forward in February counted a total \$27 billion to \$35 billion bill for enlargement, including the up to \$13 billion counted for military integration.

The rest was calculated on \$8 to \$10 billion in costs to be shouldered by all members, and \$9 to \$12 billion to improve the military capacity of the current 16 members.

The current members of NATO are: Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the United States.

Allies of detained Congo army chief fear trouble

KINSHASA (R) — Allies of democratic Congo's detained army chief said Thursday he had been falsely accused of coup plotting and warned authorities of serious rifts in the ruling alliance.

Government spokesman Raphael Gbenda told Reuters the arrest of General Masasu Nindanga was for disciplinary reasons. But associates of the general and local newspapers have spoken of the coup plot allegation.

Mr. Masasu co-founded the alliance movement that brought president Laurent Kabila to power last May. His arrest in Kinshasa Tuesday appeared to add a new element of instability in the government that is struggling to find its feet. "We are being told that he is being accused of preparing a coup d'état, but they have found no evidence," a close associate of Mr. Masasu told Reuters from hiding.

He said several Masasu allies and relatives had been placed under house arrest while soldiers loyal to the general had been disarmed and held in barracks across the capital.

Others close to Mr. Masasu said they feared trouble from lower ranks in Mr. Kabila's army with whom the general is very popular.

Mr. Masasu is from the eastern part of the former Zaire where Mr. Kabila launched a seven-month rebellion that toppled veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko last May.

The bulk of the fighters who joined Kabila's Rwandan-backed alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) are from the two eastern Kivu provinces.

Mr. Kabila is from the mineral-rich southern Shaba province. Mr. Masasu's allies say the general had had disagreements with southerners gaining influence in Mr. Kabila's inner circle.

"For a certain time the way in which policies have been conducted have not responded to the ideals of the AFDL, and commandant Masasu has not always agreed," an aide said.

"President Kabila is surrounded by people from his own region in the south. Mr. Masasu is from the east and surely the brothers of Kabila find him an obstacle," he added.

"Eighty per cent of the soldiers who liberated the country came from north and south Kivu and were trained by Masasu, if something had happened to him all this part of the army can turn against Kabila," the Masasu aide added.

Mr. Masasu was left out of the AFDL executive during its recent restructuring in what his allies say was an attempt to exclude him from the administration.

Playing down the affair, spokesman Gbenda said: "It is a question of military discipline. That is all we can tell you."

Interviewed in the local

"Reference Plus" newspaper Thursday. AFDL Secretary-General Deogratias Bugera denied the arrest was linked to any coup plotting.

"His arrest is a surprise for me. Masasu never had any problems with anyone. Speculation in the press which talks of a coup attempt is therefore without any foundation," Mr. Bugera said.

Since taking power in May the AFDL has been dogged by internal power struggles. From the outset many Congo watchers doubted the movement, made up of divergent interest groups, could remain united politically after achieving their military aim of toppling Mobutu, who died in exile in September.

Mr. Masasu is not the first alliance member to have been arrested, although he is the most prominent detainee so far.

While he is known as the chief of staff of the army, he is not viewed as the real military leader in the Congo.

Since forming his government in May, Mr. Kabila has yet to name officially the army hierarchy. Senior officers have remained shadowy and only loosely organised in order of superiority.

Some Tutsi officers from the Rwandan army which backed Mr. Kabila's revolt have remained in Congo occupying senior positions of influence.

Ex-ally urges South Africa's Winnie to confess

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A former ally urged Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Friday to confess to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) any human rights crimes she or her bodyguards committed.

"For the sake of your own inner tranquility, I hope you are able to bring it into your heart to take the commission into your confidence," secretary of Safety and Security Azhar Cachalia told her.

After testimony in which he accused her of running a personal vigilante gang that terrorised residents of Soweto in the final years of apartheid, he said his appearance had been "a bit of a nightmare."

"But we actually cannot go forward unless there is some level of accountability," said Mr. Cachalia, who told the TRC that she had been a role model in his youth.

Ms. Madikizela-Mandela, divorced by President Nelson Mandela last year, has sat through five days of testimony implicating her in a series of brutal assaults and at least six murders.

Friday's hearing was briefly interrupted when three elderly women from the African National Congress (ANC) veterans association walked up to TRC Chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu with a letter of support for Ms. Madikizela-Mandela.

Mr. Tutu politely refused to accept the note and the women told reporters it would be improper to read it to them.

But spokeswoman Rita Khoza said their intention had been to offer moral support to Ms. Madikizela-Mandela, adding: "It was war and when there is war you kill people who are violating you."

Ms. Madikizela-Mandela showed the first sign of emotion when she wiped a tear from her eye as a former fellower broke down when he was asked to describe his torture by police.

Ms. Madikizela-Mandela's sometimes ambiguous relationship with apartheid police also came under the spotlight Friday.

Mr. Cachalia, a former human rights lawyer, said it was difficult to understand in 1988 and 1989 how she was able to get away with so much more than other apartheid foes.

He said some people in Soweto suspected that she was working with the apartheid police.

"This was because just about everyone seemed to be aware that there were guerrillas and arms in the Mandela home," he said in a written statement to the TRC.

Questioned about that view, he said it was difficult to understand why she could drive around with her "gang of thugs" and keep weapons in her home at the height of South Africa's state of emergency while a year earlier



Charles Zwane takes the oath as he is sworn in at a Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing which is investigating human rights abuses allegedly committed by Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. Zwane broke down and sobbed later while trying to answer questions about how he was tortured by security police in the 1980s (Reuters photo)

she would have been prosecuted to the full extent of the law even for owning a banned book.

"Did they (the police) want to use what was happening around her home to discredit our President (Mandela) when he was released. There were a million agendas."

"Nothing was happening. Yes, it was difficult to understand," Mr. Cachalia said.

Ms. Madikizela-Mandela, a candidate for the December election of a new ANC deputy president, has yet to testify, but she is expected to argue that she was a victim of a strategy by the former white government to undermine her influence and to discredit her.

Her lawyer, Ishmael Semanya, has indicated in his cross examination of the first 20 witnesses that she dismissed much of the negative publicity about her at the time to the government's dirty tricks campaigns against the ANC and its leaders.

Other TRC inquiries have confirmed that the apartheid government threw increasing amounts of money into secret and sometimes ill-controlled efforts to discredit the opposition.

The TRC released a copy of an undated telex message signed by three policemen, referring to "Operation Romulus" and citing as a recent success: "Discreditation of W. Mandela and the ANC both locally and abroad."

The document also cited the police success in discrediting the ANC by circulating a false invitation to the movement to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to attend its 1991 national conference, adding: "The invitation was prepared by this office. Feedback on this issue to date was that this action was extremely successful."



A Taiwanese man carries his grandson on his shoulder to let him experience a taste of election fanfare during a campaign rally in Taipei county. Taiwan's 11.8 million eligible voters vote for the local government heads in 23 constituencies today (Reuters photo)

Profiles of parties in Taiwan's local elections

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan holds island-wide polls Saturday to elect mayors or magistrates for 23 cities and counties. The following are profiles of the major political parties contesting in the elections:

Nationalist Party — Taiwan's ruling party.

The Nationalists, also called the Kuomintang or KMT, ruled China under party "Generalissimo" Chiang Kai-shek until 1949, when Chiang and his troops lost a civil war to the Communists and retreated with the government to Taiwan.

The Nationalists still espouse Taiwan's eventual reunification with China, but have abandoned their hard-line zeal to "take China back" since the party loosened its iron-fisted rule on the island in favour of democratic reforms in the 1980s.

The reforms culminated in the first direct presidential election in Chinese history in 1996, won by Nationalist incumbent Lee Teng-hui.

That election turned into a source of strife between Taiwan and China as Beijing, suspecting the poll was a separatist scheme, launched months of military manoeuvres and missile tests near Taiwan in an effort to dissuade voters from supporting pro-independence candidates.

The Nationalist Party holds 15 of the 23 city and

county seats to be contested Saturday.

Democratic Progressive Party — Taiwan's main opposition.

Illegal before martial law was lifted in 1987, the party was the driving force behind the political liberalisation of the 1980s, gaining strength and prominence for its efforts.

Unlike the Nationalists, the Democratic Progressive Party advocates Taiwan's independence from China if the public voices support through a plebiscite.

Like the Nationalists, the party has abandoned a hard-line platform based on this volatile issue, mindful of Beijing's standing threat to attack if Taiwan declares independence.

The party holds six of the 23 seats up for grabs, including the two biggest Taipei county and Kaohsiung county.

The party also controls the island's two major cities — the capital Taipei and the southern port of Kaohsiung — neither of which will be contested Saturday. Elections for the Taipei and Kaohsiung mayors are slated for 1998.

Analysts say the Democratic Progressive Party may gain one to four new seats Saturday on dissatisfaction with the ruling party's record on public safety, which is seen as eroding.

New Party — mainland-leaning splinter party.

The New Party has struggled to gain power since it was formed in 1993 by disaffected Nationalists who opposed the ruling party's growing centrism on the sovereignty issue.

Aside from holding 20 of the 186 total seats in parliament, the New Party is virtually unrepresented in high level electoral offices. It is fielding seven candidates in Saturday's elections, all considered longshots.

The New Party opposes Taiwan independence but remains wary of hasty reunification, echoing the nationalist stand that union with the mainland must be achieved under a mutually acceptable democracy — not under Communism.

Taiwan Independence Party — advocates formal independence.

The Taiwan Independence Party was formed in 1996 by disaffected left-wingers from the Democratic Progressive Party who claimed the main opposition had lost its ideal of seeking a sovereign Republic of Taiwan completely independent of China.

Like the New Party, the Independence Party has struggled for relevance at the political fringe.

Only a year old, the Taiwan Independence Party has no seats in parliament and Saturday's election is its first real popular test. It is fielding candidates in three constituencies.

Scientists solve riddle of millennium sunrise

NAIROBI (R) — A group of scientists may finally have ended an argument that has been raging in the south Pacific for years — which will be the first inhabited place on earth to see in the new millennium?

The scientists, writing in the latest edition of the Geographical Journal, say Hakepa Hill on Pitt Island, east of New Zealand, will see the first dawn of the millennium break at exactly 1603:40 GMT on Dec. 31, 1999 — or 0403:30 local time on Jan. 1, 2000.

But anyone wishing to beat Pitt Islanders to the millennium should venture further south east to the uninhabited Chatham Islands, where dawn will break three minutes earlier, they say.

And how did they arrive at this conclusion? Simple, just use the formula "sunrise = 0.99727 (right ascension minus east longitude plus/minus cosine

to the power of -1 (negative tangent of declination) minus (GMT at 0 hours universal time)."

A number of islands in the south Pacific have been planning lucrative millennium tours, promising visitors they will be the first to see in the year 2000.

Last year the Tongan government was reported to be considering introducing daylight saving time so that it could pip New Zealand to the millennium post, while residents of Kiribati were reported to have asked for the date line to be shifted to make their day begin an hour earlier.

The scientists say neither tactic would be valid.

"The arbitrary and unilateral moving of time zones or the international date line does not give rise to any level of credibility in the international navigation community," they wrote.

"Any claim on the first millennium sunrise from a place geographically quite removed from the traditional dateline lacks sensibility, as any country in the world could do the same."

The scientists say the public can be forgiven for being baffled over the debate. "The concept of time and its measurement on earth, being an intellectual construct, makes this confusion... understandable," they wrote.

The journal, which is distributed to fellows of the Royal Geographical Society, said the place where the first sunrise will actually be seen lies in the southern ocean, just north of Scott Island in the Belleny basin.

The sunrise will not be seen further southeast on Antarctica because that ice and snow-covered continent has a permanent night or day, depending on the time of year.

Dissidents call on Wei to lead Chinese democratic movement

BEIJING (AFP) — Four Chinese groups opposed to the Communist government have called on released dissident Wei Jingsheng to take charge of the country's democratic movement.

"For almost 20 years, Wei Jingsheng fought strongly for the democratic movement in China," said the four foreign-based groups in a statement released by the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

"Despite his ordeals, he has not changed his ideal. In doing so he has won the respect of all Chinese dissidents."

Mr. Wei, who is considered the father of the democratic movement, was freed by China on Nov. 16 after spending nearly all the past 18 years in prison. He went to the United States for medical treatment.

The groups backing Mr. Wei were named as the

Paris-based Federation for Democratic China and the U.S.-based Party for Freedom and Democracy in China. Chinese Democratic Party and Alliance for a Democratic China. Their appeal came, however, only a few days after two dissidents who have remained in China, Xu Wenli and Ren Wanding, who said Mr. Wei had been falsely made the torchbearer of the Chinese democracy movement.

Mr. Wei said Tuesday he would not get involved in the "internal quarrels" of the dissident movement.

The four democracy groups called on all dissidents to meet for a congress "to find precise working methods and to set aims."

They said they hoped Wei Jingsheng "will take part in the coordination of all the parties so a new page can be turned for China's democratic movement."

84 die in Indian bus crashes

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Thirty-four wedding guests were among 84 people killed in three separate bus crashes in India, news agencies said Friday.

The three accidents all occurred overnight Thursday. The wedding guests, returning home, drowned after their bus plunged into a canal in the south of the country, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Police said 34 bodies had been recovered, while 15 other people managed to swim to safety after the vehicle fell into 10 feet of water in the canal in the state of Karnataka.

In the northern state of Himachal Pradesh, meanwhile, at least 24 people were killed and 18 injured when their bus fell into a gorge near Shimla late Thursday, PTI said. Earlier reports had placed the toll at 17.

Twenty-six people died and 23 were injured in a third collision between a bus and a truck in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, the PTI said.

The accidents were the latest in a series of road tragedies involving buses in India.

Congress demands recall of Indian parliament

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's Congress 1 party here Friday demanded parliament be recalled so that a no-confidence motion against the minority coalition government can be tabled.

Congress parliamentary leader Sharad Pawar, however, said the party, which has kept the United Front coalition in power for seven months, would decide which way to vote during a leadership meeting which started at 12:30 a.m. (0700 GMT) Friday.

Mr. Pawar, speaking after a meeting with government leaders and the speaker of the lower house of parliament, said: "The Congress has called for the resumption of parliament Tuesday, as a no-confidence motion has been moved against the government."

"The speaker has suggested the house should meet Monday. But we called for the resumption

Tuesday as a large number of our members of parliament are not here." Congress last week threatened to withdraw its support unless a coalition member party implicated in the 1991 murder of former Congress premier Rajiv Gandhi was ousted.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral rejected the ultimatum, saying the allegations had not been proved. Parliament was adjourned indefinitely Monday following three days of uproar between Congress and coalition members of parliament.

Since then, leaders from Congress and the United Front have carried out a series of frenzied meetings to try to find a face-saving compromise.

A motion of no confidence was last week put forward by a rebel Congress member.

The party, however, has

been having second thoughts over whether to topple the government. Should the United Front lose the no-confidence vote, fresh elections or the formation of a new coalition would follow.

Both options are expected to favour the BJP Hindu nationalists, the main opposition party and Congress's bitter rival.

Mr. Gujral and Congress leader Sitaram Kesri were also expected to meet Friday.

Thursday the BJP, the largest party in the lower house, also called for parliament's recall. They are hoping to get the chance to set up a new coalition if Mr. Gujral falls.

India has blamed Sri Lankan separatist guerrillas for Gandhi's killing. The coalition's DMK party was accused in an official report last week of giving "tacit" support to the Tamil Tigers.



A fireman runs from a bushfire across country road behind him in bush near Newcastle, 150 kilometres north of Sydney (Reuter photo)

Over 200 bushfires hit eastern Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Over 200 bushfires were burning on Australia's eastern seaboard Thursday and emergency services feared more would flare as lightning storms hit drought-hit scrubland.

Firefighters used helicopters to drop water on one major blaze in the blue mountains 50 km west of Sydney as temperatures in some areas of New South Wales and Victoria states reached 40 degrees Celsius.

Emergency powers had been invoked in five mostly rural sections of New South Wales. State Emergency Services Minister Bob Debus told New South Wales parliament.

"As at midday today there are approximately 1,000 active firefighters on the ground, fighting over 150 fires across the state," Mr. Debus said.

Mr. Debus said over 2,000 hectares of bushland had been burnt out over the past 24 hours.

Australia's two most populous states were hit overnight by lightning storms which carried little rain and similar storms and strong winds were forecast for later Thursday.

"It's almost unprecedented and what is really concerning, I suggest, is that we had such extensive storm activity last night with little or no rain," New South Wales Bushfire Commissioner Phil Koperberg said on Australian Broadcasting Corp Radio.

"It is a rare event that you get that much lightning without at least some accompanying and compensating rain."

Hundreds of firefighters were fighting about 90 separate fires in neighbouring Victoria and State Conservation and Land Management Minister Marie Tehan told reporters another 2,000 of her department's staff had been placed on alert.

"These conditions so early in the season should be taken as a serious indication that we are facing a long and dangerous summer," Ms. Tehan said.

Two large fires were also burning in South Australia state.

Victoria has experienced 13 consecutive months of below-average rainfall.

sub-tropical Australia regularly suffers major bushfires in the southern spring and summer months

— even without the current El Niño weather pattern. In January 1994 hundreds of bushfires raged across eastern Australia. Four people died in fires which raged Sydney, burning homes and dropping ashes on beaches.

The 1983 "ash Wednesday" fires killed 76 people and burnt more than 2,400 houses to the ground in Victoria and neighbouring South Australia.

Germany, allies urge binding greenhouse pact in Kyoto

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Germany, Singapore, Brazil and South Africa issued a joint declaration Friday calling for "legally binding" commitments by developed countries to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions.

In a statement ahead of this week's global climate summit in Kyoto, leaders of the countries said they were "moved by our common concern to ensure that the earth's climate receives urgently required protection, and in view of the still extremely difficult state of negotiations."

The statement was issued by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

They called for a "protocol or other legally binding document which will reflect the great importance of global climate protection to the whole of mankind."

"This document must contain legally binding commitments for the developed countries to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions," they said.

They cited a proposal presented earlier at the United

Nations for developed countries to jointly or individually commit to "reduce emissions of the three most important greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide) by at least 7.5 per cent by the year 2005, and by 15 per cent by 2010 compared with 1990."

"The required reductions are to be carried out primarily at the national level. In addition, the flexible implementation of binding reductions among the developed countries could be considered," they added.

The joint statement added that binding targets in a climate protocol are "especially credible if there are effective rules for verifying compliance."

"All nations on earth must cooperate with one another in order to safeguard our climate system for future generations," they said.

The four leaders urged developing countries for their part to "consider their long-term role in making further appropriate contributions to climate protection based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility" and in connection with "progress made by developed countries in Kyoto."

Calls for binding commitments have met resistance from some countries, notably Australia, which look certain to walk out of a key global warming summit next week at odds with the rest of the world after its delegate said its tough stand was non-negotiable.

Resource-rich Australia has rejected calls to rethink its policy and match a European Union target of a 15 per cent cut in emissions by 2010. It has attempted to persuade the rest of the world that targets should be differentiated according to national circumstances, and include other measures taken to reduce the global warming, like reforestation.

The 10-day conference opens in Kyoto, Japan, Monday to establish goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As the world prepares for the climate conference in Kyoto, U.S. business interests are also lobbying hard, warning that stringent limits on emissions of greenhouse gases would spell disaster for the U.S. economy. U.S. business leaders predict a loss of jobs, a marked increase in consumer prices, additional costs for producers — which they say would be the dire consequences of more stringent rules aimed at halting global warming.

Marshalls to ask U.S. Congress for more N-test compensation

MAJURO (AFP) — The Marshall Islands is preparing to ask the United States Congress for hundreds of millions of dollars in additional nuclear test damage compensation and expanded medical programmes.

Foreign Minister Phillip Muller said Friday the government hopes to have a detailed report ready to go to the U.S. Congress by early 1998.

"The sooner we do it, the better it is for both sides," he said.

Through a Compact of Free Association treaty, the U.S. has provided close to \$500 million in compensation, medical programmes and environmental monitoring, according to U.S. officials.

But island leaders say recently declassified U.S. scientific studies show

nuclear test fallout from the 67 nuclear weapons blasts affected many more islands than were provided for in the compensation agreement negotiated in the early 1980s.

A provision of the Compact allows the Marshalls to go back to the U.S. to seek additional compensation, if it can show health disorders have been discovered, that were not known at the time the document was negotiated in the early 1980s and if the new health or environmental problems render the compensation already provided inadequate.

Additional compensation and expanded medical care for Marshall Islanders is an issue that should be handled separately from the renegotiations of the Compact scheduled to start in

1999, Mr. Muller said. The Compact expires in 2001.

"We want to get this issue out of the way (before we start negotiations with the U.S.)," Mr. Muller said. "It's an issue under the current arrangement. It shouldn't be left to cloud future discussions and arrangements."

The Foreign Minister declined to give details of the Marshalls' plan, saying the report being prepared for U.S. consideration was still in draft form.

The Marshalls will be seeking a specific compensation amount from the U.S., expected to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, as well as increased medical services for islanders affected by nuclear tests conducted by the U.S. from 1946 to 1958.

Defibrillators said better than drugs for heart disease

BOSTON (R) — Pacemakers that automatically shock a stuttering heart into beating again are more effective than drugs for keeping heart disease sufferers alive, but they do not prevent death when implanted prematurely, according to two studies in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The studies were done on people who had abnormal electrocardiograms due to heart disease causing serious damage to the organ's main pumping chamber.

The pacemaker is known as a cardiac defibrillator. It monitors the heartbeat and automatically delivers a shock — similar to the one used to restart the heart by rescue workers — if it senses that the heart rhythm has become dangerously disrupted.

In one study where 446 defibrillators were implanted during bypass surgery as a preventive measure, a team led by Dr. J. Thomas Bigger of Columbia University

found that 71 of those who received the implant died over three years from heart-related causes compared to 72 people in a control group who did not get the devices.

"We found no evidence of improved survival," Dr. Bigger and his colleagues concluded.

But the defibrillators produced a clear survival advantage when they were compared with treatment using the drugs Amiodarone or Sotalol, both designed to prevent erratic heartbeats in people with damaged hearts.

In a study of 1,013 volunteers who had survived one episode of a near-fatal heartbeat, a team led by Dr. Douglas P. Zipes of Indiana University gave the patients one of the drugs or a defibrillator.

From year to year, the defibrillator group consistently lived longer. The Zipes team found the devices cut the mortality rate by 39 per cent the first year, 27 per cent the second year and 31 per cent

the third year compared with people taking one of the two medications.

"The trial was stopped because defibrillator therapy had a clear advantage over drug therapy," Drs. Robert Myerburg and Agustín Castellanos of the University of Miami school of medicine said in an accompanying editorial.

"The new reports confirm the role of implantable cardioverter-defibrillators as the therapy of first choice" for high risk patients likely to die from disrupted electrical signals that cause the heart to stop pumping correctly, the editorial authors said.

Amiodarone is sold under the brand name Cordarone by Wyeth-Ayerst laboratories, a division of American Home Products Corp. Ahp.N. Sotalol is manufactured by Berlex laboratories, a unit of German-based Shering AG Sch.G. and sold under the brand name Betapace.

Not for Princess Anne to decide on fate of Britannia

LONDON (AFP) — Stepping in to right a royal wrong, Buckingham Palace insisted Friday that Princess Anne's call to scuttle the royal yacht Britannia was a purely personal opinion — not official policy.

Speaking at a reception on board the luxury yacht docked in Portsmouth, Princess Anne this week opined it would be best to send it under, given it would be

impossible for anyone to maintain the vessel in its current pristine condition.

"She was speaking from an individual perspective in a private conversation," a palace spokesman said. "At the end of the day, what happens to the royal yacht is a government decision." "I expect every member of the Royal Family has personal opinions on the matter, he added.

"She should be scuttled," Princess Anne said.

"Do you realise that the brasses are cleaned every day — not every month or every week, but every day. Nobody could do that," she told The News, Portsmouth's local paper.

The future of Britannia — which is to be decommissioned at a ceremony attended by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince

Philip at Portsmouth on December 11 — has still to be decided.

Suggestions range from a museum to an exhibition or conference centre.

The 44-year-old yacht received an emotional welcome when it sailed into Portsmouth for the last time Saturday, following a farewell tour of British ports during which one million people turned out.

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Jordan Times

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AIDS for the poor

THE RECENT disclosure by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that the AIDS epidemic is twice as widespread as originally thought is a grim reminder that the battle against the HIV virus has so far failed to contain the spread of the disease. WHO is now telling the international community that twice the estimated 8,000 number are catching the illness every day. It also says that the increase in the rate of infection is occurring mostly in poor and developing countries. On the other hand, the rich and advanced countries have succeeded not only in containing the epidemic but in reducing the numbers due to the availability of new and effective medicines.

It seems that the AIDS virus would soon become the poor man's disease as the case was with other epidemics. This does not augur well in the age of globalisation. At a time when the developing countries are being persuaded, and coerced, to adopt unlimited market economy practices, they are being left behind in the war against AIDS.

Globalised economies cannot be attained in the absence of an international policy that would bridge the gap between the rich and poor in every sense of the word. If the less, or least, developed nations are destined to become poorer and sicker, then there is no sense in opening world or even regional markets. The less developed countries have so far served as backyards for the developed world and unless they too get more attention and care, they will become a major source of danger to their fortunate neighbours to the west and north.

Perhaps the sounding of the alarm about the continued spread of AIDS in poor states would at last awaken the major capitals to the need for a people-oriented development. This has to be done if not only balance but also the well-being of mankind is to be restored to planet Earth.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Arab Al Yawm's Taher Adwan hailed a call by the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed, who urged the Arabs to end the sanctions on Iraq and reconcile with the Iraqi leadership. The call comes at a most opportune moment when the Arab states are beginning to realise the danger posed to their nation and when members of the Arab Gulf states have been showing increased opposition to Washington's aggressive nature, said the writer. Adwan said it is not the first time Sheikh Zayed calls on the Arabs, but this time the call is urgent because it is designed to save the millions of Iraqis from a possible U.S. military strike. While the United States continues to flex its military strength, thousands of Iraqis, mainly children, die every month because of the shortage of medicine and food, a situation that should move the Arabs to act collectively and put an end to the Iraqi tragedy, said the writer. He stressed that the Arab countries can abort the unjust sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people if they decide to do so because silence in the face of America's attack on Iraq is tantamount to condoning the aggression.

Al Dustour's Mohammad Daoud urged the government to follow in the footsteps of Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf states in dealing with guest workers there. Daoud said the Gulf countries have started to reduce the number of guest workers in order to open the way for their own nationals to work. Jordan, he said, ought to reduce the estimated 250,000 non-Jordanians working legally or illegally in Jordan to give Jordanian job-seekers opportunities to earn a living. The government should realise that unemployment is a serious problem requiring solutions, the writer continued. He said that the solution to the problem lies in replacing the guest workers with Jordanian men and women.

Jordanian Perspective

Likud surprise demonstrates inevitabilities

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE SURPRISE that a senior Likud leader sprung in a party meeting last week by supporting the creation of a Palestinian state against stiff opposition from many of his colleagues did not come out of a vacuum. It appeared to have stemmed from the inevitable acceptance of the reality that the Palestinian problem would not simply fade away despite all Israeli attempts and that coexistence is impossible in the Holy Land as long as the present Israeli government refuses to accept the legitimate, political and territorial rights of the Palestinian people.

The support for a Palestinian state extended by Meir Shalev, head of the Likud group of the Knesset, followed a secret meeting he held with Mahmoud Abbas, effectively the "No. two" person in the Palestinian hierarchy. It seems that Abbas was able to convince Shalev of the sincerity of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the peace negotiations, deadlocked or otherwise, with Israel. The net sum of the surprise development is simple: Awareness of the inevitability of the creation of a Palestinian state is growing slowly but steadily among Israeli right-wingers; that in itself is a good omen, given the sinking feeling of all peace-loving people that the optimism sparked by the Oslo agreements, despite their shortcomings, was nothing but an illusion.

Shalev's new position comes in direct contrast to his prime minister's "magnanimous" offer to increase the size of land to be placed under Palestinian self-rule by two per cent, to eight per cent in return for "accelerated" final status negotiations. But then it is also a foregone conclusion that Netanyahu's tactics are aimed more at placating U.S. President Bill Clinton than actually reinvigorating the peace process by building confidence with the Palestinians. The six-to-eight per cent formula is the key pillar of Netanyahu's endeavours to show "tangible"

progress in the peace process to the Americans rather than a sincere effort to break the stalemate with the Palestinians.

As such, there is little sense in Yasser Arafat, as reported by Israeli Radio, keeping the door open for possible consideration of the "new" Israeli idea because it is very clear that by even agreeing to study the proposal the Palestinian leader will be playing into Israeli hands and help Netanyahu achieve his objective of improving his standing with Washington.

Indeed the clear signs of an estrangement between Netanyahu and Clinton should be a catalyst for Arafat not to budge from his demand that Israel unequivocally agrees to implement what has been agreed under the Oslo accords and all subsequent declared and undeclared documents signed between the Palestinians and the Jewish state. After all, Netanyahu has turned the negotiations with the Palestinians into a pawn in his game with the Americans and there is no reason why the Palestinians should play the game under the same rules.

Netanyahu himself went on record saying he felt Clinton was "treating him" like Saddam Hussein, a pariah in American eyes. If indeed Clinton sees Netanyahu as a political outcast and refused to meet him in Malibu when both were in the same state, then the Israeli prime minister has none but himself to blame. But then that is an issue between the U.S. and its only strategic ally in the region.

However, the fact that the U.S. feels that way could be made to serve the Palestinian and Arab interests. For once, Netanyahu, wittingly or unwittingly, is contributing to the argument that Israel cannot be pressured into anything even if the pressure comes from the U.S., without whose unlimited economic, military, moral and political

support the Israeli state would not have survived or reached a position of seeking to impose its own version of a peace settlement with the Arabs.

That translates into sheer ingratitude in Washington terms, and that is what is hurting not only people in the White House but even a well-known supporter like Martin Indyk who was attacked in the Israeli press. Netanyahu may or may not be playing an internal political game, but there is no denial of the growing realisation in Washington that he has taken for granted American support for him regardless of what he does, with no obligations on his part.

Quite simply, Clinton has come to accept that the U.S. can no longer do business with Israel under the leadership of Netanyahu, a reality that we in the Arab World acknowledged 18 months ago when the Likud leader was voted into power with the narrowest of margins.

That is where the apparent change in mood among Likud leaders like Shalev comes into play. We in Jordan have always supported dialogue with scrupulous Israelis, despite the hard-line record of some of them, as one of the key means to convince our neighbours that there cannot be coexistence without mutual recognition of the inalienable political and territorial rights of both peoples as well as the return of other Arab lands under Israeli occupation.

We hope that the developments on the Israeli scene point in the direction of an acceptance by hard-liners of the realities and requirements of peace and, indeed, the Israeli right-wing would clear the way towards the attainment of peace. What we have seen is a slow but positive shift in mood among Israeli hard-liners against the continued deadlock in peace negotiations.

The Palestinians should let that deadlock continue until such time the voice of reason is heard loud and clear.

Technology advances mathematics instruction

By Dr. Suheil Khuri

IN OUR professional lives, computer-based technologies have begun to have such transcendent effects — a technology that has the potential to cause significant change. While instructors in industrialised and some developing nations have come to rely on high-powered computational tools and techniques, however, instructors in Jordan and in particular mathematicians are computer-phobic and for them computers are still "unfriendly objects." This is reflected in our curriculum at both the elementary and secondary level. In our schools, mathematics is taught today more or less the same way it was taught 20 years ago. You can hardly find computer or calculator-assisted exercises in our mathematics textbooks at all school levels. Most of our students still stick to pencil and paper for solving mathematics problems, while students in many advanced countries have come to rely on computer-technologies. To put things simple, the vast majority of our mathematics instructors have not yet become familiar and comfortable with computers as important tools for teaching

mathematics.

The declining price of computers and calculators makes it possible and easier for most of our school students to have access to them. As we look to the future, the one thing we can be sure of is that technology will continue to advance and, on the whole, will continue to decline in price. Thus, we find ourselves in an environment in which we should easily make computers or at least calculators accessible to all our elementary and high school students.

For example, for less than JD70 handheld calculators are available with programming and graphics capability equivalent to microcomputers of 1978. Besides, these calculators can be used for several academic years and for almost all elementary and secondary school levels.

The mathematics educational community in Jordan has to begin to explore the potential uses of computer-based technologies for mathematics education in the classroom. Computers facilitate the solution of complex mathematics problems that require computations that are, for all practical purposes, impossible and extremely tedious. Researchers who were using com-

puters quickly realised that the computer could be used to illustrate and motivate concepts that were difficult to explain otherwise. Instead, of focusing solely on the use of computers to improve the teaching of current mathematical topics, we can also explore simulated learning environments that will enable us to teach materials previously thought to be too abstract or complex.

There can be little doubt that this computer-based technology will affect both the way we teach mathematics and most importantly the content of our mathematics textbooks. The availability of computers has created new challenges for curriculum development. Specifically, our mathematics curriculum must be changed to take into account new ways of solving old problems and the host of new problems that have arisen. Students will be enormously stimulated by the introduction of computing into the curriculum; for it will turn the all-too-often passive school experience into one of active participation. If the basic mathematics textbooks are not appropriately modified to reflect the points of view which are associated with computer appli-

cations in mathematics, the textbooks will lose much of their relevance for the coming generation of school and college students.

I believe it is high time for mathematicians in Jordan to start making use of computers in their instruction. It is possible to harness computer-based technologies in interesting ways, ways that go far beyond allowing us to do complex mathematical problems faster and more efficiently than before. With innovative use of technologies, we may be able to do things that, until now, were simply not conceivable. We should become familiar with computers as tools that do computations for students, in effect freeing them to focus on the much more important conceptual ideas. Finally, I hope that we get closer to the realisation of the opportunities technology offers for the improvement of the instructional techniques of teaching mathematics so that we as a nation will bridge the gap between us and the advanced nations.

The writer is a professor of mathematics at Amman University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Press still sees dangers for Iraq, region as U.S. masses forces

REVIEWED BY
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE REPERCUSSIONS of the dispute between Iraq and the U.N., Jordanian domestic affairs and the Middle East question were given prominence in the local dailies last week.

Al Ra'i's Fakhri Kassar justified the Iraqi leadership's decision to evict the U.S. arms inspectors from Iraq because he said they were spying on the Iraqi nation and because there appears no end in sight to the sanctions. The U.S. has brought about the destruction of Iraq's military power and economic installations over the past seven years thus prompting the Iraqis to rebel against the situation, Kassar said. He said Iraq, which accepted all U.N. resolutions and allowed the weapons inspection teams to carry out their mission, must have felt that the world community had abandoned its 20 million people, many of whom are dying from starvation and lack of medicine, and so it decided to give the world a shock and wake up the conscience of nations to put an end to the continuing crime.

According to Al Arab Al Yawm's Marwan Hazin the danger of conflict is still present in view of U.S. massing of naval and air forces around Iraq and of Iraq's determination to see an end to the sanctions. The writer said that despite the return of the U.N. inspection teams to Iraq and Baghdad's readiness to cooperate with the U.N., the U.S. is determined to provoke Iraq's leadership by different means in order to justify a strike. Referring to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's visit to Syria, Hazin said the visit must have angered Washington especially as the two Arab neighbours have common enemies: Turkey and Israel both of which are also allies of the U.S. The U.S. which still keeps Syria on a list of countries that encourage terrorism is using Turkey as a lever to exercise pressure and threaten Syria to prevent it from helping Iraq, he added. Thus it is clear that both Damascus and Baghdad are exposed to a common danger and it is hoped that Aziz's visit will be followed up by other favourable steps that would pave the way for a full reconciliation which in turn would pave the ground for the lifting of sanctions.

Sultan Al Hattah of Al Ra'i said Jordan has no alternative but to voice support for all moves designed to end the sanctions on Iraq and to prevent further military strikes against that country. Iraq is Jordan's strategic depth, whose markets are open to

Jordanian products, and Iraq continues to supply the Kingdom with its needs of oil, Hattah said. He said when the Jordanians express concern over Iraq's fate they are actually expressing concern over themselves and their future because any harm that is inflicted on Iraq will naturally serve as a heavy blow to Jordan's economy. If the U.N. sanctions continue, the Jordanian economy will continue to deteriorate, and if the oil supplies are cut off, Jordan will be in deep trouble because no other secure source of oil supplies are available to the country, warned the writer. He said despite the restoration of Jordan's good relations with Arab states, the Kingdom has, to date, not found an alternative to Iraq's markets and oil supplies.

Present U.S. threats against Iraq and the massing of forces to launch yet another aggression on that country are manifestations of the U.S. administration's desire to avoid another failure in its foreign policies, according to Tariq Masarweh, a writer for Al Ra'i. Masarweh said the U.S. adminis-

THE WEEK IN PRINT

tration has failed to persuade the Arabs to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Doha to pursue economic ties with Israel, and also failed to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to move ahead with the U.S.-sponsored peace process with the Palestinians. By making threats against Iraq and massing of naval and air forces to launch a strike on that country, Washington is trying to avoid a third failure and to show the world that it is still the sole superpower and capable of handling any world issue by itself, according to the writer. Masarweh said that it was the Arab countries which had caused the U.S. administration to face one failure after another, and it is the Arab countries which can bring an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people by ending the sanctions on Iraq.

An Al Dustour writer discussed the professional and trade union elections saying they were politicised because the union members are concentrating more on politics than their profession. Mohammad Daoud said the candidates for the Jordan Engineers Association elections, for instance, are running on political tickets rather than professional considerations,

and they do not conceal the fact that they are affiliated to and represent political parties and they are seeking the votes of the association members on this basis, he said. Danud said even student councils in universities, and youth clubs around Jordan are following these associations' example. One cannot deny association members the right to be affiliated to political parties, but he said pursuing political goals through union elections does not normally contribute to promoting the professions or protecting the unions' interests.

Rashid Hassan, a writer for Al Aswaq, said the repeated attacks on school teachers by their students proves that the present education system in Jordan is not working and demonstrates that drastic steps should be taken to stem such a behaviour. Before the attack on the teacher in the Jordan Valley earlier this month, there was an attack on a teacher in Naour, and before that there were other incidents like the storming of schools by local residents, the writer said. He said these incidents prove that the Ministry of Education has taken no drastic action to prevent their repetition. What the country is witnessing now is disrespect of teachers by their students and failure of the ministry to protect persons dedicating their lives to bringing up the future generation, he added. The writer demanded that the ministry introduce measures to protect teachers and ensure that they are respected by the local community.

Al Ra'i's Ahmad Mischeh commented on Israel's disregard for the Oslo accords and its illegal practices in the occupied Arab lands saying that peace will remain illusive as long as the present situation persists. Recalling that Netanyahu had promised His Majesty King Hussein several months ago that he was preparing a favourable surprise to end the stalemate in the peace process, the writer said the Israeli premier appears unable to deliver. One reason is that Netanyahu's hands are tied to the extreme rightist and religious groups to whom he had made anti-peace promises before the elections, said the writer. Another reason, he said, is that Netanyahu is facing a rebellion from many of his own Likud Party members who are calling for him to resign. If Netanyahu is really concerned to surprise the Arabs by moving along the path of real peace, Mischeh said, he should start with the Palestinians, lift the siege on them, by allowing them to operate their own airport, by redeploying Israeli forces in accordance with the Oslo accord and by halting settlement building.

LETTERS

A call for dialogue

To the Editor:

THE APPALLING and fearful image of portraying Islam as a religion of terrorism and awe, and the Western media's latest Islamophobia propaganda fit in with the vicious campaigns and accusations hurled at Islam on a daily basis. This painful fact, unfortunately accepted by some intellectuals, Arabs and foreigners alike, has been likely fuelled by the series of heinous massacres in some Arab countries, the latest of which was in Luxor. The question is "do these terrorist acts achieve any good and bring about the solutions sought? The answer, I am quite sure, is that no religion, neither Islam nor Christianity nor any other, accepts the killing of innocent women and children and the mutilation of their bodies. Such acts, as in Luxor, are perpetrated by hired killers who feign to be representing Islam.

Islam, if we genuinely want to make others embrace it, cannot be imposed by force and bloodshed. The way to reveal Islam to the world is through dialogue and conviction by sincere and faithful followers. In this regard the serious efforts of HRH Crown Prince Hassan must be mentioned. Prince Hassan has repeatedly called for "religious dialogue" at all international meetings. He is indeed one of the pioneers in promoting global awareness of Islam, its tenets and the misconceptions attached to the religion.

Mazen Al Tamimi
Amman

A search for identity

To the Editor:

IT HAS long been known that there are times when the business of one is the business of all, when the person cannot separate himself from his society. This great spirit of harmony is fading in our society. I have spent much time lately trying to find out why.

I could give a pretty long list of reasons, among them the lack of responsibility which is spreading at an alarming rate, mostly affecting us, the young who make up the majority of Jordan's population.

Our beliefs have been altered in a very small space of time, after exchanging them with thoughts and ideologies imported from other nations, without any attempt from us to understand the circumstances and forces which moulded them.

We've been receiving the remains of the cultures of foreign nations, trying to rebuild our personality on the ruins of the original one, the one made by men who deeply understood the meaning of life. We can never find ourselves if we forget our roots, our identity as Arabs... as masters of civilisation...

Zaid Munther Shawwa
Amman

The birth of Arab nationalism

An historian's essays dispel the myths

Book Review

Cameos: Jordan & Arab Nationalism
By Suleiman Mousa
Ministry of Culture
Amman



Suleiman Mousa

AMMAN — A remarkable contribution to the study of Middle East history, a recently published collection of articles by one of Jordan's most prominent historians finally provides English readers with a rare opportunity of understanding an Arab point of view on the birth and development of Arab nationalism.

"Cameos: Jordan and Arab Nationalism," written by Suleiman Mousa and recently published by the Ministry of Culture, includes 13 essays that were published in several international journals from 1967 to 1985.

Dr. Mousa's articles represent a vivid account of the glorious days of the Great Arab Revolt, reconstructed with scientific rigour through the first-hand accounts of its protagonists.

The correspondence between King Faisal, his brother Sharif Zeid, and their father, King Hussein of Hijaz, faithfully and meticulously quoted in all relevant details by Dr. Mousa, provides an insight into the Hashemites' hold and historic enterprise, with all its difficulties.

Under the leadership of King Hussein of Hijaz, the Arabs relied on their natural right to independence from Ottoman rule to win, the author suggests.

But, as Dr. Mousa puts it, they "could not hope to achieve Arab unity on the strength of their own influence... and had to depend on the support of their allies," namely the pledges of Great Britain and U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's doctrine, which was interpreted as upholding the principle of self-determination.

After the successful conclusion of the 1917-1918 revolt and the end of World War I, the Hashemites came to realise that "the Paris Peace Conference was merely a platform for delivering speeches, under cover of which the great powers acted with no concern for anything except self-interest."

Notwithstanding King Faisal's diplomatic efforts in Paris to persuade the British to support the establishment of a unified Arab independent state, the

future of the Arabs had already been negotiated between France and Great Britain, with the Sykes-Picot secret agreement. Under the mandate regime, Syria would go to France, while Iraq and Palestine would fall under Great Britain's control.

Recording all successive steps that culminated in King Faisal's "sense of betrayal" and "disillusion," Dr. Mousa offers a heart-felt chronicle of those bitter days.

His primary sources — which include British Public Record Office (PRO) Foreign Office dispatches, as well as precious letters from the private papers collection of Amir Zeid Bin Hussein, the fourth son of King Hussein of Hijaz — also shed new light on the role, too often mythicised, of one of the most controversial figures of our century: T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia.

The Arabic correspondence between the Hashemite leaders, and by and to Lawrence himself, proves that the British political officer tended to overemphasise in his best-selling books his personal role in the revolt.

Not only did Colonel Lawrence not start or even take part in the most crucial military operations of the revolt, but often, Amir Zeid's letters show, he did not even play the role of middle-man between King Hussein and his sons, on one hand, and the British Bureau in Cairo, on the other hand, and was unable to provide badly needed funds to continue the liberation march of the Hashemites.

"The significance of this correspondence is that it gives evidence from Arab sources, to balance the view point of Lawrence," Dr. Mousa says.

"All of this documentary material has never been translated into English. Most of it has not even been published in Arabic before. To my mind, it is important to have it translated and published, for the simple reason of providing a balance to certain aspects of the Lawrence legend and history," Dr. Mousa explains in "Arab Sources on Lawrence of Arabia: New Evidence."

In another contribution ("Whose debt?" first published in International History Magazine, Switzerland) Dr. Mousa strongly concludes: "It is unjust to expect the Arabs to differentiate between Lawrence as an individual and Lawrence as an instrument of his own country. It is also unfair to expect the Arabs to be happy when biographers depict him as a 'king-maker' or talk of him as the hero and leader of the Arab Revolt."

Dr. Mousa's essays also analyse the Arabs' early perception and interpretation of Zionism, a subject often overlooked or only superficially tackled by historians.

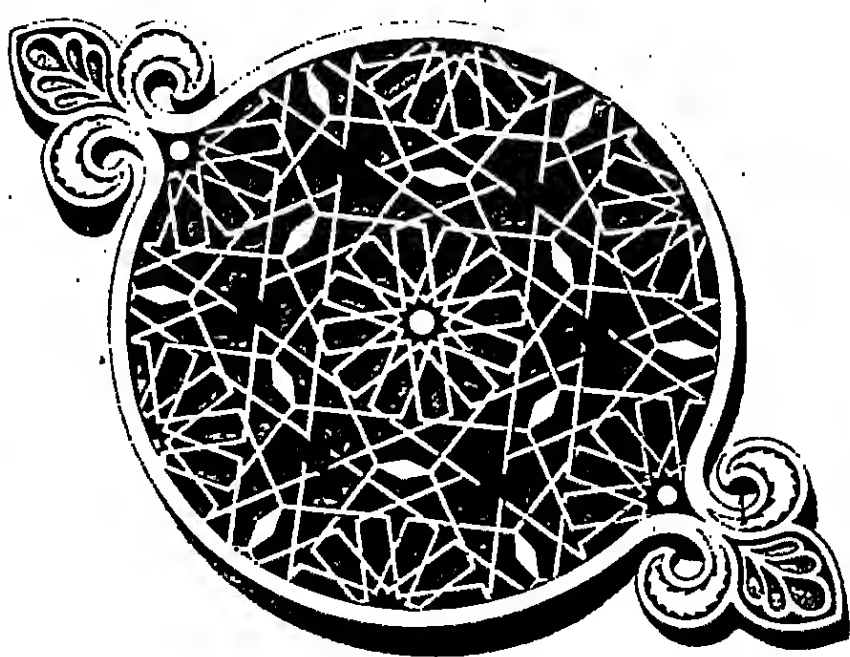
Born in Irbid in 1920, Dr. Mousa has written tens of books on Jordanian and Arab history, including the two volumes of "History of Jordan" (co-authored with the late Mohammad Smadi), a milestone for researchers on this part of the world.

Among his most famous books is "Lawrence and the Arabs: An Arab View," first published in Arabic in 1962, and later translated in English, French and Japanese.

By Francesca Ciriaci

CAMEOS

Jordan & Arab Nationalism



Suleiman Mousa

Published by the Ministry of Culture

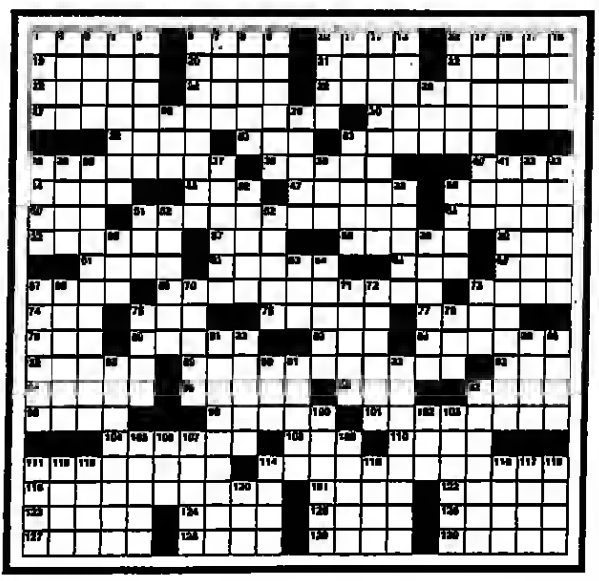
The Saturday Crossword

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By Chuck Doodeno

Edited by Herb Eitenson

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Diagramless, 17x17

By Don Johnson

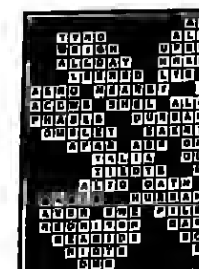
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SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY PUZZLE



SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DIAGRAMLESS PUZZLE



CRYPTOGRAMS

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HESSE: GO FEWLOX IFF EXAS KEET.
2. LUSMT LTVZIE TET FIZ TI KIZ EX
ACHOWBOW. ARZ REZ ZTI PICCHET VF R
TCIZ RPP MIZ ZEU SLOWBIE. — By Duane M. McGary
3. JUS OSL LTO U TWOKNES WOC NE
LSREJW NFO DPEN KEEP ZO U PULSNOX
FELTO? — By Frank N. Stein

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ADC



World Bank wants long-term Palestinian investment

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and international donors need to shift the focus of development aid from short-term projects to long-term investments to fuel private sector growth, a World Bank official has said.

"We need to start looking at real investment rather than rehabilitation," Maamoun Sbeih, a World Bank spokesman in the West Bank and Gaza, told Reuters.

Mr. Sbeih said top priorities for donors, who will meet in Paris in December to begin preparing a second five-year Palestinian development plan, should be to increase efforts to improve the West Bank and Gaza's decaying infrastructure and forge a business-friendly legal and

administrative framework. "Clearly there is a lack of investment in physical infrastructure," Mr. Sbeih said.

He said the PNA had spent only about two per cent of its \$3.6 billion gross domestic product on infrastructure since it was formed in 1994 under Israeli-PLO interim peace deals.

"The target should be somewhere between four and eight per cent, ideally closer to eight," Mr. Sbeih said.

He said the growth of the public sector, which now has 82,000 employees compared with 23,000 when self-rule was introduced, was worryingly rapid.

He said the emergency PNA employment generation programmes, implemented to offset rocketing

unemployment resulting from periodic Israeli border closures and trade limits, had crowded out more sustainable long-term development.

"Much of this money would have been better used if it had gone to investment but the closure situation dictated supporting employment generation," Mr. Sbeih said.

He said PNA officials had responded positively to a recent World Bank report outlining ways to boost the depressed West Bank and Gaza economy in the face of tough Israeli security restrictions imposed since the interim peace deals were signed.

The report called on the Palestinians to boost competitiveness, keep limits on the ballooning public sector, improve financial transparency and better

utilise a healthy range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

It said Palestinians, well-educated and rich in human capital, were underachieving their potential due to limits to private sector growth.

Better infrastructure and transparent investment laws, the report said, would fuel private investment and improved property registration — allowing land to be used as collateral — would boost business lending by a well-capitalised banking sector.

Mr. Sbeih said the World Bank hoped donors would come up with new aid pledges to support the Palestinian economy by the end of next year, when a five-year aid package put together after the 1993 Israel-PLO Oslo accords dries up.

"The Palestinians are presenting a package of projects for the next three years in the Paris meeting," Mr. Sbeih said.

He added he did not know if pledges for the coming five-year plan would equal the \$3.6 billion in pledges over the past five years.

"We would like to think positive," Mr. Sbeih concluded.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Central Statistics Agency said Thursday that unemployment among Palestinians stood at 31.6 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 18.2 per cent in the West Bank earlier this year.

The statistics, published in the Palestinian daily Al Hayat Al Jedida, covered July to September, a period which saw heavy Israeli economic sanctions on the

territories after a pair of suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

After the bombings on July 30 and Sept. 4, Israel imposed a total ban on Palestinians entering Israel and blocked all movement between West Bank towns until mid-September.

The Palestinians said the closures, along with Israel's refusal to hand over millions of dollars in tax funds to the PNA for several months, wreaked havoc with the economy and drove up the authority's budget deficit.

The World Bank warned last week that the Palestinian economy could collapse if Israel did not lift continuing trade and travel restrictions on the occupied territories, pointing to a drop in family income and rising unemployment.

G-8 nations seeking balance between reform and job protection

KOBE, Japan (AFP) — The Group of Eight (G-8) industrialised nations discussed how to fight unemployment at a jobs summit here Friday, with employers saying a job for life can no longer be taken for granted.

"It is extremely important to reform the structure of the old system and to improve the quality of the whole system," Japanese Labour Minister Bunmei Ibuki said in an English-language opening speech to the meeting.

Mr. Ibuki also pointed to "growing pains" often accompanying reforms.

"The United Kingdom and the United States are several steps ahead in the reform of the economic system," he said. Japan, which is currently in the process of this reform, should clearly understand what will be the effect and side effect of such reform," he said.

Mr. Ibuki, who is co-chairing the two-day meeting in this western port city with International Trade and Industry Minister Mitsuo Horiuchi, also called on participants to keep "basic requirements" of economic development in mind.

"We must recognise that labour and management are equal partners," he said.

For the first time trade union representatives joined the conference, which followed similar meetings in Detroit in 1994 and Lille, France, in 1996.

Russia also participated for the first time alongside Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States, and each country is to inform the others how it is dealing with unemployment.

French President Jacques Chirac in Lille called for the wealthy nations to show imagination in balancing the European desire for social protection with the need to respect economic equilibrium.

The themes of the Kobe gathering are classic in their subject matter — youth employment, continued training, the ageing active population and adjustments to structural changes.

Participants are expected to issue a joint statement at the end of the conference.

A government report said Friday Japan's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in October stood at 3.5 per cent, matching an all-time high registered in June but still lowest among the G-8 members.

In a statement read by a senior government official, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said the G-8 must recognise "employment may decrease in some business sectors" amid increased domestic and global competition.

But the premier stressed the need to "strengthen the functioning of (the) labour market."

"Simultaneously, we

should make full use of a carefully designed safety net appropriately adapted to structural change," said Mr. Hashimoto, now on an official visit to Canada.

Meanwhile, employers chiefs warned workers can no longer expect jobs for life unless they improve their skills to cope with advancing technology and new market conditions.

"The idea is to have less legislation and more initiative in enterprises," Jean-Jacques Oechslin, chairman of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) told a news conference.

Workers should maintain "employability" to secure jobs for their entire working life, he said on the sidelines of the G-8 gathering.

Italian Labour and Social Affairs Minister Tiziano Treu told the conference: "We need a fundamental reform of education and training based on the concept of life-long learning."

A Japanese official quoted a participant from a continental European nation as saying job training used to be seen as "insurance," but now had to be "investment."

Donald Johnston, secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, proposed in a meeting with Mr. Ibuki that the Paris-based body host a summit to discuss unemployment among young people, officials said.

European Union presses call for new global trade round

GENEVA (R) — The European Union (EU) has issued a fresh call for the launching of a new global round of trade negotiations and urged governments to work harder at explaining the benefits of free trade to their peoples.

The appeals, in part clearly aimed at the United States, came in a Brussels report to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on EU trade policies, which — like those of all major powers — come under review in the watchdog body every two years.

"Looking ahead, a key part of the EU's approach to external commercial policy remains its commitment to further multilateral liberalisation focused on the WTO system," the report declared.

The continuing process of admitting new members — like China and Russia — to the trade body, a range of already agreed sectoral negotiations and discussions on new WTO issues like investment and competition policies "provide together an unparalleled opportunity for further liberalisation and wider participation by all countries in the global economy," it said.

The EU sees a clear need to tackle this task in a comprehensive, global way... seizing this opportunity will be the

first task for the wto's members in the new millennium," the report added.

EU Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan has personally championed the idea of a "millennium round", starting at the turn of the century, to build on agreements reached during the 1986-93 Uruguay Round.

Fresh negotiations are already due to begin in the year 2000 on deeper liberalisation in farm trade and services.

But U.S. trade officials have been lukewarm at best to the idea of another round, arguing that faster progress towards global free trade can be made in talks on specific areas — like the current bid to shape a deal on financial services.

Analysts say last week's retreat by President Bill Clinton in the face of strong congressional opposition to his bid to win "fast track" negotiating authority for trade accords could strengthen resistance to a full round.

"Fast track" — which means Congress can only approve or reject a pact in its entirety and not pick it apart — is seen as vital to give other countries confidence that a U.S. administration can deliver on trade-off concessions across economic sectors agreed during wide-ranging negotiations.

A more positive sign emerged on Tuesday when Pacific Rim leaders agreed at a meeting of the Asia-Pacific economic forum in Vancouver to work to lower tariffs and other barriers across nine business sectors from 1999.

But analysts said this could only heighten concern that the U.S. administration is focusing too much on regional deals that have doubtful domestic appeal rather than on global pacts that bring clear advantages to key groups, like U.S. farmers.

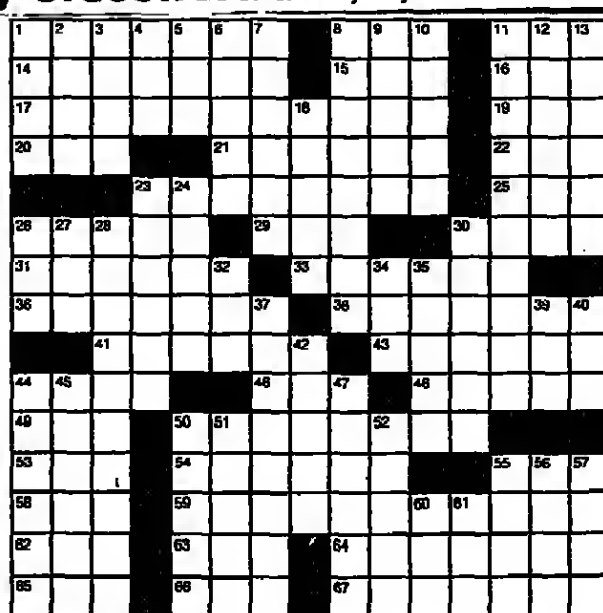
These worries, and suggestions that Mr. Clinton lost "fast track" because of this focus, were reflected in the EU report.

It said the WTO rules-based system could only continue to develop "if it enjoys the wholehearted support of WTO members, both in their dealings with each other and in their explanations of the real, longer-term benefits of trade liberalisation to their respective domestic constituencies."

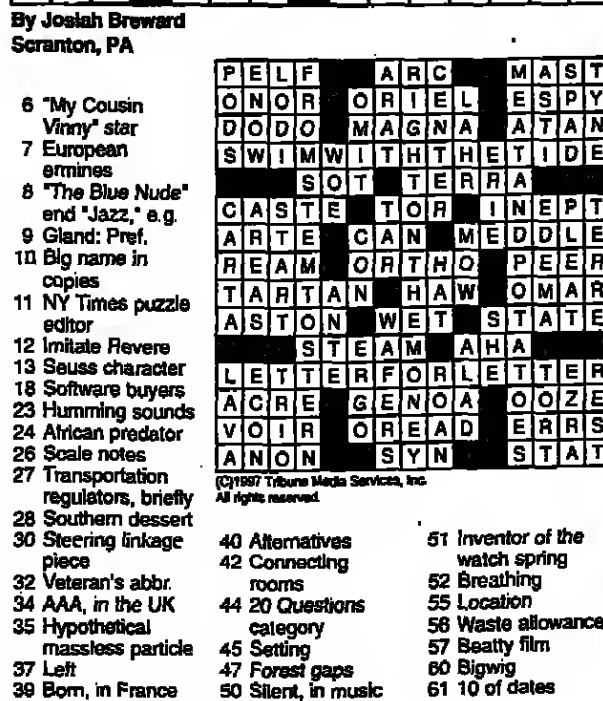
Governments, the EU report said, "should not allow debate on trade questions to be conducted in a fragmented manner or on a sectoral basis not providing a clear view of the global and mutual benefits that flow from comprehensive and broad liberalisation."

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Impulsive people
 - Wright of "AI"
 - Once existed
 - Reducing
 - Kid's curbside offering
 - Novelist Levin
 - Supreme Court Justice since 1980
 - Herbert, the actor
 - Summer on the Somme
 - Sands or Miraga, e.g.
 - Him in Italy
 - A.L. team
 - 987-65-4321 group
 - Suspicious
 - Grads-to-be
 - Those people
 - More sore
 - Director Leone
 - Pooh-poohed
 - Italian seep
 - Speaks pompously
 - More shortened
 - Landon and others
 - Thicket dog
 - Seeps
 - Lon of Cambodia
 - Start today
 - Frigid
 - Of a main artery
 - Gland: Pref.
 - Orch. section
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 - The Greatest
 - Barely manage
 - Ikicked out
 - David Roth
 - Tycoon Turner
 - Seas and Deadly Sins, e.g.



- DOWN**
- Status
 - Medical school
 - sub.
 - Kine movie
 - MMV divided by
 - Assistance



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Talking is more fun if there are electronics involved. It's a guy thing."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REZIP

EYAPE

KROMES

GLAHGE

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: RIVET COLON PAYING SUBTLY
Answer: A hard working garbage man doesn't mind when his boss does this — PILES IT ON

مِنْ أَهْلِ الْبَيْتِ

Australia and Iran fight for the last World Cup ticket

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Australia and Iran dispute their own World Cup final here Saturday in the last battle to get a treasured place for France '98.

The winner will be the 32nd and last team to reach next year's finals and the buildup is as tough as the victor takes the cup itself.

Ninety-thousand fans are expected to pack the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the second leg of the tie. The two countries drew 1-1 before 128,000 people in Tehran last weekend.

Australian coach Terry Venables, hired at great expense for the World Cup campaign, hopes the occasion will lift his players.

"This match has got that extra edge to it," he said Friday. "The nearer you get to anything as important as this ... it's exciting. You're so near and so far."

"It gets the nerves tingling a bit, not jangling, just tingling."

Both teams have made a huge investment in reaching the finals but they have taken vastly different routes to get this far.

Australia have taken on former England manager

Venables and scored 31 goals in six matches to win the Oceania zone. Venables worry in recent months has been getting enough practice.

Iran started the Asian qualifying tournament as hot favourites to get one of the two automatic places for the finals. Their three German-based players — Ali Daei, Karim Bagheri and Khodadad Azizi — make them one of the most feared teams on the continent.

The campaign started with a dream 17-0 win over the Maldives but has since turned into something of a nightmare. The team looked in disarray when beaten by Japan earlier this month in a playoff for Asia's third spot.

Iran led Asian Group A but only a draw in their last three matches and saw Saudi Arabia overtake to grab one place in the finals.

The coach was sacked and then Iran lost to Japan in extra-time in the playoff between the two second placed teams from the two Asian groups.

Saturday's match will be Iran's 16th in the World Cup. They have travelled

tens of thousands of kilometers on a gruelling qualifying schedule.

But both sides are nervous, having been in the football wilderness for so long. Australia last went to the World Cup finals 23 years ago and Iran have only been once, to Argentina in 1978.

If there is an advantage, Australia appear to have it as the home team.

If they win or get a scoreless draw, Australia will advance. An Iran win or a draw of 2-2 or more will be enough to get them to France.

A 1-1 draw will force 30 minutes of sudden death extra time and then a penalty shoot-out.

Iran are banking on the return of captain and mid-fielder supremo Karim Bagheri from suspension to cancel Australia's home advantage with his incisive passing and fierce shooting.

Venables has told his players to attack, after spending much of the time in Tehran on the defensive.

West Ham United wing-back Stan Lazaridis was the only change made by Venables to the side held

last weekend.

Lazaridis replaces Glasgow Rangers defender Tony Vidmar, who received a yellow card last Saturday.

Venables will name the seven substitutes Saturday and has not ruled out Lazio star Paul Okon being included.

Okon, Australia's most gifted performer, has been suffering from a long-standing knee injury which has restricted him to just two reserve team outings in Italy over the last month.

Venables has yet to lose as Australian coach — his record shows 12 wins and one draw from 13 matches.

He also has the respect of his players.

"Signing him may turn out to be one of the best moves Australian soccer has ever made," says Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich.

"He has an aura of quiet confidence," adds Auxerre midfielder Ned Zelic. "He gives you confidence without having to say anything."

Lazaridis summed it up: "You step up a gear just because you've got someone like him on the sidelines."

Pacers beat Grizzlies

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Chris Mullin scored a season-high 27 points and Reggie Miller added 21 as Indiana defeated Vancouver 106-85 Thursday night, extending the Pacers' domination of the Canadian teams.

Indiana has never lost to Vancouver or Toronto in 14 games since they entered the NBA in 1995.

The Pacers scored the game's first six points and never trailed.

They broke the game open by outscoring the Grizzlies 31-12 in the third quarter, when Miller hit three 3-pointers and scored 14 points.

Indiana led 55-50 at half-time and took command by making 10 of its first 12 shots in the third quarter while Vancouver hit only four of its first 7 1/2-minute shot by Mullin, his third 3-point shot of the game, gave Indiana an 84-59 advantage with 3:08 left in the third quarter.

The Grizzlies had a season-high 28 turnovers, the most by an Indiana opponent this season, and the Pacers scored 31 points off the turnovers.

The Pacers opened the second half with a 24-4 run, which included three 3-pointers by Miller.

Indiana took an 86-62 lead into the fourth quarter and built its lead to 28 points before pulling its starters with about five minutes remaining.

Rik Smits scored 17 points for the Pacers, while Mark Jackson had 11 assists to move into eighth place on the NBA's all-time list with 6,924.

Reserve George Lynch led Vancouver with 15 points, while Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 14.

Italy backs Spanish refs' strikes

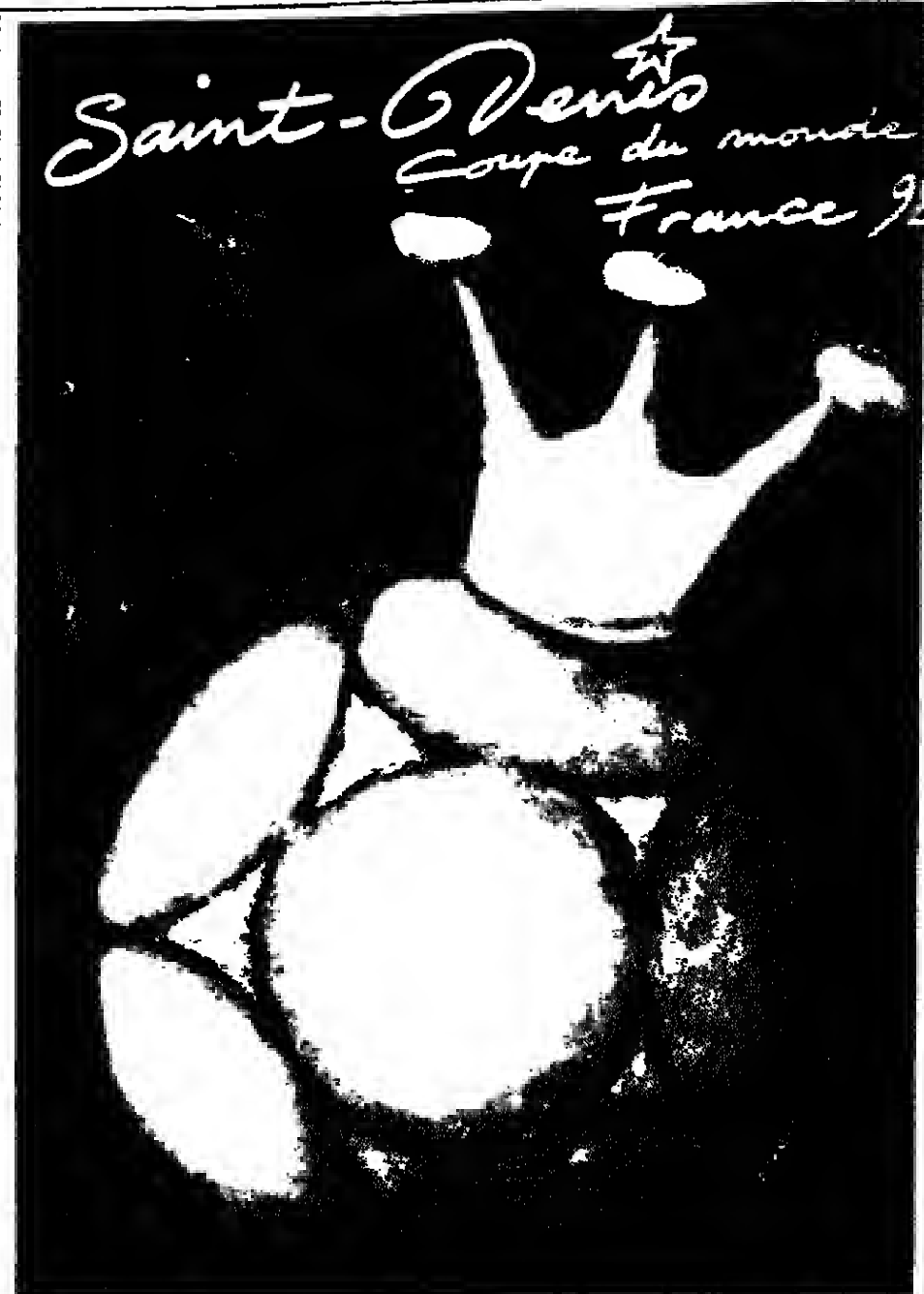
ROME (AFP) — Italy's referees sent a message of support to their Spanish counterparts on Friday, as Spain braces itself for a strike by protesting match officials.

Spanish referees are demanding more respect from players and club officials, and are willing to take industrial action this weekend. Spain's football federation is currently negotiating to resolve the dispute.

However, they have already won the full backing of Italy's referees, who have themselves been the target of widespread criticism in recent weeks.

"Italian referees of the National Refereeing Commission for Serie A and B clubs, who are unfortunately experiencing the same negative situation as their Spanish colleagues, express their full solidarity for the initiative being undertaken, and whose sole objective is to improve national and international football," they said.

The credibility of match officials here has been damaged recently by two damning television replays — one of a goal that should have been awarded to Udinese and one that should not have been given for Bologna.



Official poster of the 80,000-seat Stade de France stadium in the Paris suburb of Saint Denis. The stadium will host matches and the final of the 1998 World Soccer Cup that takes place in France from June 10 to July 12, 1998. The poster was designed by French artist Sylvie Decugis (Reuters photo)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Southgate making progress

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — Aston Villa defender Gareth Southgate may yet be fit for the UEFA Cup return clash with Steaua Bucharest a week on Tuesday. England centre-back Southgate has started jogging after straining ankle ligaments in the friendly international with Cameroon at Wembley two weeks ago. He was initially ruled out of action for four weeks but has now been given a chance of returning a few days ahead of schedule meaning he could play in the second-leg encounter with Bucharest at Villa Park on December 9. Villa manager Brian Little said: "He is doing quite well. He is on schedule. I think four weeks out was a pretty good shout about how things will go. But whether it is a little bit before the four-week deadline or a little bit after, the next few days will tell us."

Mexico get new coach

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Manuel Lapuente has been given the job of winning World Cup glory for Mexico. The Mexican was named new national coach in succession to Serbian Bora Milutinovic, who was sacked on Tuesday after guiding Mexico to France 98. Lapuente, 53, held the post of national coach briefly in 1991. He has won the Mexican championship four times with Puebla (1982/83 and 1989/90) and Necaxa (1994/95 and 1995/96). Argentina's Cesar Luis Menotti and Holland's Leo Beenhakker had been the favourites for the post. Milutinovic, who took Mexico (1986), Costa Rica (1990) and the United States (1994) to the last three World Cup finals was criticised for Mexico's performances in their last three qualifying matches when they drew 2-2 with Canada and 0-0 with the USA and Jamaica.

Sutton stays at Rovers

BLACKBURN (AFP) — In-form striker Chris Sutton has signed a new contract with Blackburn Rovers that will keep him at the English Premiership club until the summer of 2003. Sutton, Rovers' five million pound (\$8 million) record signing, has been in exceptional form this season, winning a place in the England squad for the recent international against Cameroon. The 24-year-old former Norwich City frontman is Rovers' leading scorer with 11 goals and has played a vital part in lifting the club to second

place in the Premiership. Sutton said: "It's great to have my future sorted out. I am very happy at Blackburn and there is a great respect for manager Roy Hodgson." Sutton has been linked with several big-money moves in recent weeks with the likes of Newcastle and Arsenal reckoned to be among the interested parties.

Cruyff hospitalised

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — Dutch football great Johan Cruyff was undergoing tests in a hospital here Thursday after being admitted suffering from apparent chest pains. Cruyff was admitted to the University Hospital on Wednesday and is being treated in the intensive care unit, a hospital spokesman said. "Johan called for an ambulance and was transported to hospital," the spokesman said. "He will be undergoing a battery of tests." The spokesman said Cruyff is expected to remain in hospital until next week. Cruyff, 50, underwent a heart bypass operation in 1991 when he was coach of Spanish club Barcelona. He has subsequently abandoned his coaching career and is now working as a television commentator. The former World Cup star's clubs included Ajax Amsterdam and Barcelona — and he went to coach both Barcelona and Feyenoord.

Galeone set for Napoli

MILAN (AFP) — Perugia have freed former coach Giovanni Galeone from his contract with the club and cleared the way for him to take over at Serie A strugglers Napoli. Perugia, who had Galeone under contract until June 1998 despite sacking him midway through last season, agreed to release him after the coach said he would do a deal on some unpaid wages. Owed 675 million lira (\$360,000) for the period from July to October this year, Galeone agreed to waive up to a third of that figure in return for his freedom. Napoli, bottom of the table after six consecutive defeats and on their third coach this season, are at home to Fiorentina on Sunday. Despite the wrangle with Perugia, Galeone had already started coaching his new club.

Manchester, Dortmund and Kiev join Munich in UEFA quarters

PARIS (AFP) — Manchester United, defending champions Borussia Dortmund and Dynamo Kiev won their European Champions League groups on Thursday, joining Bayern Munich as direct entrants into the quarter-finals.

Goals from Andy Cole and Teddy Sheringham and an own goal from Lubomir Faktor earned Manchester United a 3-0 win at home to Slovaks FC Kosice, while Sergei Rebrov's goal for Kiev was enough to put them through even though Gilles De Bilde equalized for PSV Eindhoven in the second half for a 1-1 draw.

Borussia Dortmund beat Galatasaray of Turkey 4-1 at home and sealed top spot in Group A when Parma were held to a 2-2 draw by Sparta Prague. Russia's Vladimir But, Heiko Herrlich, and Michael Zorc (2) were on target for Dortmund with Korkmaz Ergun hitting a consolation for Galatasaray three minutes from the end.

Manchester have won Group B and Kiev topped Group C, putting them into the last eight with Group D winners Bayern Munich, who won 2-0 against Turkish side Besiktas on Wednesday. In other results, Rosenberg of Norway beat Real Madrid 2-0 through goals from Roar Strand and Harald Brattbakk just before and after the break. Madrid had only needed a draw to seal Group D but must now wait until their last match at home to Porto on December 10. Porto's Mario Jardell hit a double in their 2-1 win over Olympiakos in the other Group D game. For Alex Ferguson's United, who



Rosenberg's Runar Berg (R) makes a pass watched by Real Madrid's Manuel Sanchis during their Champions League group D match. Rosenberg shocked Real beating them 2-0 (Reuters photo)

have now won all of their five matches so far, it was a night of triumph. The visitors, who were the only team in the Champions' League without a point going into the game, held out until five minutes from the interval.

Cole collected David Beckham's pass and spun off the last defender before firing home through Ladislav Molnar's legs to record his 13th goal of the season and fifth in Europe.

United finally made sure of victory when Faktor mistakenly knocked the ball into his own net six minutes from time after Karel Poborsky's shot was saved by Molnar, and Sheringham challenged for the loose ball. With just seconds remaining, England star Sheringham rounded off a sparkling United display with a superb goal when he curled in a ferocious drive from 25 yards.

"They have done fantastic," Ferguson said. "They are a credit to themselves. The perseverance and passing tonight, even when things were not going very well, were fantastic. Jorg Heinrich set up Dortmund's first goal in the 22nd minute, accepting a Stephane Chapuisat pass deep near the corner flag, skirting a Turkish defender

and passing to But, who was waiting in front of the net. Herrlich missed a number of opportunities but then scored with a header before half-time.

Veteran Zorc, who captained Dortmund to last season's title, replaced But at half-time because of the Russian's groin strain. He immediately got in the thick of the action, accepting a Heinrich pass in the 48th minute and calmly scored from seven metres.

The mood of the sold-out crowd in Dortmund's Westfalen stadium turned nasty when the visitors had a 60th-minute goal disallowed for offside.

The several thousand Galatasaray fans threw cups, fire lighters and other objects onto the field in protest.

Dortmund scored their fourth goal in the 86th minute when Zorc scored a penalty, but Galatasaray got a late consolation goal through a diving header from Ergun.

Dynamo Kiev's Rebrov fired home superbly in the 19th minute to boost the Ukrainians, who only needed a draw to finish top of Group C. In the second half, Eindhoven coach Dick Advocaat was banished from the bench for protesting too vigorously

as his team tried desperately to equalize. But De Bilde eventually obliged as Advocaat watched well away from the action in a zone in front of the stands.

De Bilde hooked the ball in with his left foot on the edge of the six yard box to keep the Dutch club in second spot and still hoping to qualify for the last eight as one of the best two runners-up. Enrico Chiesa, whose hat-trick guided Parma out of the Champions League qualifiers against Widzew Lodz over the summer, opened the scoring in the 22nd minute.

And it looked as if all three points were destined to give Carlo Ancelotti's side a fighting chance of reaching the quarter-finals of the competition as one of the best two group runners-up. But Jiri Novotny notched an equaliser with about two minutes to the whistle, and Josef Obajdin was left completely unmarked as he drove home another for a shock 2-1 lead just 60 seconds later. Parma salvaged a token point when Chiesa converted a penalty in injury time, but it will do little good for a side who now have eight points from five matches and only a slim chance of reaching the last eight.

CINEMA	TEL: 634144		TEL: 634144		TEL: 699238		TEL: 677420		TEL: 079 33450		TEL: 079 33430		TEL: 625155	
	PHILADELPHIA "1"		PHILADELPHIA "2"		PLAZA		CONCORD		GALLERIA 1		GALLERIA 2		Hisham Yanes Theatre	
TODAY AT	Chris O'Donnell & Jene Hackman ... in		Charles Grodin ... in		Nour Al Sharif & Layla Alwi... in		Rowan Atkinson... in		ABDOUN		ABDOUN		NOW ON DAILY	
	THE CHAMBER		BEETHOVEN'S 2ND		AL MASEER (Arabic)		MR. BEAN		Nour Al Sharif & Layla Alwi... in		NOTHING TO LOSE		THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE	
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Winner in the 1997 Cannes festival		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45		Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas	
							SLEEP WALKERS		Winner in the 1997 Cannes festival				For reservations call: 640155, 625155	
							Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only							



le de France stadium in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis during the final of the 1998 World Cup. The photo was taken on July 12, 1998. The photo is credited to Reuters photo.

IN BRIEF

Cruyff hospitalised
AMSTERDAM — Johan Cruyff, the former Dutch footballer, was hospitalised on Saturday after suffering a heart attack. He was 68 years old at the time.

Galeone set for Napoli

NAPOLI — The Italian football club Napoli has signed a new player, Galeone, from a local club. The transfer was completed on Saturday.

Snowstorm rewrites schedule

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN — A heavy snowstorm hit the area on Saturday, forcing the cancellation of several events. The organizers are working to reschedule the events.

Dallas Cowboys' Anthony Miller (83) leaps to bring in a 35-yard pass from Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman as Tennessee Oilers Darryll Lewis defends in the first half. The reception set up the first Cowboy touchdown during a first half filled with Cowboy turnovers (Reuters photo)

THE GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE

Sports

Faisali end Wihdat's unbeaten run with 2-0 win

By Omar Karmi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With perfect footballing weather at the Amman International Stadium, Faisali closed the gap at the top of the Premier League table by beating Wihdat 2-0 Friday.

The win maintained Al Faisali in second place, trailing Al Wihdat by three points. Over 22,000 fans looked on, in what is traditionally the biggest game of the domestic season, and despite an early bomb scare, which saw all fans evacuated as the stadium was checked, they were mostly in fine voice.

Whether or not the Wihdat players were affected by the latest debacle in the Arab Champions Cup in Tunisia, in which they failed to qualify for the quarter-finals after a humiliating 7-0 defeat to Algeria's Widad Talmassan, was not apparent at the start, but it certainly affected the Faisali fans who seized every opportunity to taunt Wihdat's players and fans with cries of "seven nil".

Despite this, Wihdat opened brightly enough, enjoying most of the possession and producing a few nice, little moves on both wings, where Ali Juma' and Ra'fat Ali both got behind the Faisali defence. Their shots however, lacked precision, and it was not a surprise that Faisali produced the game's first real chance.

A mistake in midfield saw Faisali's Mohammad Tawayha, gain possession. His surging diagonal run across the Wihdat defence opened the space for him to produce a shot, which was well saved by the goalkeeper Nasser Ghandour, who one-handed tipped the ball over the bar at full stretch.

Wihdat still looked in control, though, and five minutes later a neat one-two in midfield between Ra'fat Ali and Abdullah Abu Zami'eh, saw Ali surging clear on the left wing. Again his cross lacked precision, the Faisali defence clearing easily for a corner.

A pattern for the game was set, Wihdat continued pressing high on the field with Ali in the 20th minute taking a shot from 25 yards straight at the Faisali goal-keeper Waleed Abu Hmeid.

Faisali, meanwhile, appeared content soaking up the pressure, and hoping for the counter-attack with the quick legs of Tawayha and the skilful control of Haidham Shoul.

With most of the possession, Wihdat also gained most of the corners and free-kicks. Without exception these were very poorly delivered, but a free-kick on the left wing in the 35th minute had Faisali goal-keeper Abu Hmeid hopelessly flapping at the ball. It fell invitingly for Wihdat's tall full-back, Adnan Al Tawel, but his shot across the face of goal went narrowly wide.

Wihdat's sustained pressure seemed to be paying off. Their striker Jihad Abdul Mun'ir, kept causing a lot of trouble constantly bustling the Faisali back four, and in the 40th minute a deft little ball into the penalty area had the Faisali's Muhammad Mahadin in all kinds of trouble.

However, Wihdat failed to capitalise on their possession, and in the 41st minute they paid the price. A terrible ball out from the defence gave away possession to Faisali's Tawayha, who, in a near replica of

his earlier chance, incisively cut across the remaining two Wihdat defenders, who were caught square, and sweetly chipped the on-rushing Ghandour 1-0.

The second half saw Wihdat having to come out and try to get the equaliser early on, but whatever their Iraqi manager Anwar Jassam told them at half-time, they were not prepared for the shock that awaited them.

With fans still regaining their seats, Shoul picked up the ball high on the Wihdat half, and a darting little run brought him past two defenders into the right hand corner of the penalty-area. A swerving shot gave a fully stretched Ghandour no chance, and before the Wihdat players had time to rouse their spirits, they were suddenly looking at a 2-0 deficit.

Their response was immediate, but insufficient. Straight from the kick-off, Abu Zami'eh found Tawayha in a bit of space, but his shot went narrowly wide. The Wihdat fans, by now very silent, were beginning to realise this was not going to be their day.

Al Faisali, with a two goal cushion, sat back. Leaving only Jihad Abdul Mun'ir up front, they wisely decided to crowd their own penalty area and concentrate on shutting Wihdat out. By suffocating the game, the onus was on Wihdat to pile on the pressure. This they did, but time and again they were let down by poor delivery into the box.

At least thirteen corners produced not one decent attempt at goal, and although Abu Hmeid appeared to have trouble with crosses, Wihdat had greater trouble producing good ones.

What dangerous situation Wihdat did create came mostly through the middle. A lovely through-ball in the 70th minute found Abdul Mun'ir unmarked inside the penalty area. His control was good, but he took too long to shoot, and was quickly closed down.

Another great through ball a few minutes later saw Ali free on the right side of the area, but his first touch let him down, taking him too close to the advancing Abu Hmeid.

In the 78th minute Ali tried a little chip but the ball had no real power and caused Waleed no trouble.

In the end Faisali came closer to scoring a third. Twice in the last ten minutes, as the sustained pressure started to show, in the legs of the Wihdat players, Tawayha sprinted clear of the defence only to be thwarted by Ghandour.

Frustration and tiredness threatened to destroy the game's otherwise good spirit, and in the final minute it all proved too much for Ali who barbarically scybed down Shoul from behind and duly received his marching orders from the excellent Saudi Arabian referee Mohammad Al Bishri, who had been specially flown in for the occasion.

A great cheer rose from the Faisali supporters at the end of the match and chants were exchanged from 7-0 to 2-0. With seven games still remaining there is still all to play for.

Nevertheless, Wihdat, despite having incurred their first defeat of the season, remain firm favourites to retain their title.

Sweden ahead in Davis Cup

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — Sweden took a 1-0 lead in the Davis Cup final here Friday when home No. 1 Jonas Bjorkman survived a mid-match crisis to defeat Michael Chang 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in front of a capacity 11,000 crowd in the Scandinavium arena.

After a nervous start by both players in front of an excited, drum-playing, flag-waving crowd, Bjorkman dominated the 71-minute first-set. The 25-year-old Chinese-American conceded half-a-dozen double-faults, put less than 30 per cent of his first serves into play, offered his opponent ten break points and dropped his serve in the seventh and 11th games.

Bjorkman, however, lacked the killer-punch. Although he pocketed the opening set he wasted too many chances and once clear he lost his concentration completely.

Chang, the world's third-ranked player despite a disastrous late season run in which he slumped to five defeats in six matches, charged back to pocket seven of the next eight games and when he took a 3-1 lead in the third set, things were looking bleak for Bjorkman.

But the 25-year-old Swede, who has shot up from 60th to fourth in the rankings surged back.

Suddenly lifting his game — getting up off the carpet after looking beaten to reach a job and win one marvelous point in the tense sixth game — Bjorkman broke Chang twice to take a two sets to one lead.

The match lasted 3 hours.

1st Southwest Asian Games conclude in Tehran

King congratulates Jordanian athletes returning with 10 medals

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE FIRST Southwest Asian Games ended in Tehran Friday with Jordanian athletes gaining 10 medals, half of which were won by the athletics team. His Majesty King Hussein sent Jordan's delegation a cable of congratulations on their impressive results in the 12-nation competition.

In ten days of competition, Jordan won two gold, four silver and four bronze medals.

Three of the medals were won on the final day of competition, as Fakhruddin Fuad clinched Jordan's second gold medal clearing the high jump bar at 2.10 meters although his personal best stands at 2.17.

The medal was Fuad's third gold medal of the year in the high jump competition. He had won the gold at the Pan-Arab Games clearing 2.17 metres. He also won the gold at the Arab Athletics Championship in Saudi Arabia in August.

Also in athletics, Tareq Najjar won the silver medal in the discus setting a new personal best with a throw of 51.90. His discus record stood at 51.53 metres which he set in Saudi Arabia earlier this year.

Najjar had earlier set a new Jordanian record in winning the shot put bronze medal with a throw of 15.80 metres.

Meanwhile, Awwad Sreyes won another silver in the 10,000 metres adding it to the silver medal in the 5,000 metres he had won earlier in the competition.

Jordan's Salameh Abdul Karim came in fourth in the 10,000 metres while teammate Mu'een Taha, also finished fourth in the 10,000 metres walk in which only five athletes com-

peted. Jordan's other medals were secured through the weightlifting, judo and boxing teams.

Mohammad Abu Khadijeh earned the Kingdom's first gold medal when he won the final bout of the heavy-weight 91-kilogramme boxing event in which he knocked out his Syrian opponent Ahmad Shilleh in the first round.

Khaldoun Abdul Hamid and Basel Hindawi won two bronze medals in the boxing 57 and 81 kilograms.

Jordan's Mousa Khidal won a bronze medal in judo's 78-kilogramme category.

Ayed Khawaldeh had secured the Kingdom's first silver medal at the Games when he won the 54-kilogramme event in the weightlifting competition.

Khawaldeh, the only weightlifter representing Jordan, had become the only Jordanian to win three medals at July's Pan-Arab Games.

Jordan was eliminated from the fencing competition as well as the wrestling, tennis and badminton events. The impressive results in four sports — weightlifting, athletics and boxing — all of whom were also equally impressive in Beirut's Pan-Arab Games, made up for otherwise disappointing Jordanian results at the onset of the Tehran Games in which 12 countries competed in 17 sports events.

In Beirut, the aforementioned teams had earned five medals each while the wrestlers took four. Judo and fencing earned a medal each.

Open to men's teams only, the Nov. 19-28 Games brought together athletes from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Oman, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan and Iran.

Jordan's 37-member delegation comprised 19 athletes competing in 8 events: Athletics, boxing, fencing, badminton, tennis, wrestling, weightlifting and judo.

The games also included basketball, karate, table tennis, soccer, handball, taekwondo shooting and swimming.

Unable to cover air-fare, many Jordanian federations stayed away like equestrian, handball, basketball, volleyball, shooting and table tennis federations.

However, in an effort to increase the Kingdom's competitive chances, the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) sponsored excellent players by paying for medal-winning athletes at July's Pan-Arab Games, while the rest of the participating federations covered their own expenses.

Jordan took a total of 40 medals, including 10 gold, 8 silver and 22 bronze medals to finish fifth among the 19 participating countries gaining more gold medals in Beirut than in the past seven Pan-Arab Games altogether, and capping the best Jordanian participation since the event was first held in 1953.

Twelve Pan-Arab medal-winners were included in the delegation including Fakhruddin Fuad and Tareq Najjar (athletics), Mousa Khidal (judo), Mohammad Abu Khadijeh, Ayman Nadi, Kamal Abdul Hamid, Khaldoun Abdul Hamid and Basel Hindawi (boxing), Abdul Hakim Abu Sneh and Ismail Shalkh (wrestling), Ayed Khawaldeh (weightlifting), and Amer Natour (fencing).

Everton vs. Tottenham: Battle of the fallen giants

LONDON (AFP) — All eyes will be on Goodison Park this Saturday when Everton and Tottenham, two of the most illustrious names in English football, attempt to end dismal runs of form which have seen both clubs slide to the foot of the Premiership table.

With leaders Manchester United, who face second-placed Blackburn, and Arsenal, who entertain Liverpool, not playing until Sunday, the attention will switch to the bottom of the table for the clash of two fallen giants.

Everton, whose record of nine league titles is bettered only by Liverpool (18), Manchester United (11) and Arsenal (10), were left rock bottom of the table after slumping to a 2-0 defeat at Chelsea on Wednesday.

But Tottenham have fared little better than their Merseyside opponents, registering just three victories in 15 league games in a dismal start to the season which forced manager Gerry Francis to resign his post last week.

Saturday represents the start of a new era with Tottenham's legions of demoralised fans hoping that new manager Christian Gross can restore glory to the once feared London club.

The former Grasshopper Zurich boss has six games before the end of the year to pull Tottenham clear of the relegation zone — but the 43-year-old Swiss is not promising the type of attractive football which made Spurs' reputation in the 1950s and 1960s.

"It's going to be a battle," says Gross. "You can't change much in five days. We have to be realistic. You can't expect that we are going to play an extraordinary game."

"We have to get a result against Everton. We are at the bottom and we need points. It's a big challenge for me. Together we must be strong. It's a big club."

Under-fire Everton chairman Peter Johnson has, meanwhile, hit back at Everton fans, who continue to voice their frustration at the club's worsening plight.

"I don't sit there having any more enjoyment than they are, and when they turn round when the first goal goes in against Everton and they are snarling at me then it is just diabolical," he said.

"We are all in this together. I don't want to travel down to watch my team lose, for God's sake."

Blackburn Rovers have the chance to go top of the table when they travel to current leaders Manchester United on Sunday, hoping that the reigning champions will be exhausted by their Champions' League exploits against Kosice on Thursday.

Rovers currently lie second, one point behind United, after an impressive start to the season under new coach Roy Hodgson continued with a 1-0 home victory over Chelsea last week.

But by the time they run

out at Old Trafford, Rovers may have been overhauled by Chelsea, who moved into third with the midweek victory over Everton and are in a powerful position going into the hectic Christmas period.

Ruud Gullit's cosmopolitan Londoners entertain Derby, the surprise package of the Premiership season, and with both sides rich in foreign talent the match promises to be a spectacle.

Fourth-placed Arsenal and Liverpool must also wait until Sunday as they head to bounce back from defeats to supposedly inferior opposition last weekend.

Liverpool crashed 1-0 at home to Premiership whipping boys Barnsley, somehow failing to find the net against the top flight newcomers who have conceded a staggering 40 goals in their 15

league outings so far. Dennis Bergkamp, meanwhile, is hacking strike partner Ian Wright to return to the goal trail as they prepared to be reunited in the Arsenal team against Liverpool.

The England international has suffered a rare five-game barren run while Bergkamp has been serving a three-match suspension.

"Sometimes he has a difficult time for a few games, but then he keeps scoring goals for many weeks. That's Ian," says Bergkamp.

"We know this, so it's not a problem him not scoring. He's still a great player. Once he starts scoring, there will be a lot of goals from him."

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Administrator To The Office Of The Friends Of Archaeology
The Friends of Archaeology Society seeks an Administrator for its Head Office in Amman. This is a full-time position (40 hours a week). That includes work on some Fridays when there are field trips. The successful applicant must be of Jordanian nationality, fluent in Arabic and English and able to write in both languages. A background in archaeology, history or related fields is an advantage but is not necessary.
The job involves a considerable amount of dealing with people (members and others), regular coordination with the board and the subcommittees of the society, and some travel in Jordan. Applicants must have basic computer skills and be able to type.
Interested applicants should submit their CV before December 13 10.
The Friends of Archaeology Office,
near the 4th Circle, Jabal Amman,
The FoA office Telefax is 5930682.

Snowstorm rewrites schedule
MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN (AFP) — Mountain crews used dynamite Thursday to blast away at least a metre of freshly fallen snow which has forced a total revision of this week's women's World Cup ski racing schedule.
That event was moved to Saturday in the hope that hundreds of volunteers working with bulldozers, and shovels can clear the build-up and groom the piste, which drops 567 metres.
The women's World Cup schedule calls for two events in the California resort before next week's events in Canada and a return to Europe.

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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7
♥ 10 2
♦ A Q 10 3
♣ 10 8 7 6

WEST
♠ 6 5 2
♥ 9 8
♦ J 7 4
♣ A Q 8 6 3

EAST
♠ 4 3
♥ 8 7 6 5
♦ K 9 8 2
♣ K 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 8
♥ A K Q J 4
♦ 8 5
♣ A

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
4NT Pass 5♠ Pass
7NT

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

Sometimes when there are two ways to make a contract, they are mutually exclusive. Then you have to decide which offers the best odds and opt for that. More profitable are the times when you can test one line first and, should it not succeed, still switch to the other. Such is the case on this deal. Can you spot the chance?

South's leap to the grand slam is not all that much of a gamble. North might have a fourth trump, in which case the heart suit should furnish enough diamond discards from dummy to allow declarer to ruff a diamond.
Declarer can count 12 fast tricks. The obvious play for a 13th is the diamond finesse, but the high trumps in dummy offer an additional chance. If trumps are 3-2, a dummy reversal will produce the extra trick.
With careful play, declarer can combine the lines. Win the ace of clubs, overtake the ten of spades with the jack and ruff a club high. Now overtake eight of trumps with the nine. Should one defender show out, declarer has no action but to draw trumps, run hearts and then rely on the diamond finesse for the fulfilling trick.
When both defenders follow, however, declarer can claim the contract. Another club is ruffed, and the ace of diamonds and ten of hearts provide the entries to ruff another club and draw the last trump. Declarer's hearts take the last four tricks. In all, declarer scores three trump tricks, three aces, five hearts and the two minor-ace aces.

Israeli opposition leader rallies party for possible early election

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli opposition leader Ehud Barak has put his party on an election footing to prepare for possible early polls as turmoil continues to reign in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud bloc.

"This government will not last out its term," the Labour Party leader was quoted by Friday's edition of the Jerusalem Post as saying.

"It may take two months or it may take a few months longer for this government to fall, but it is doomed," Mr. Barak said.

A poll published by Maariv newspaper Friday showed Mr. Barak would get 47 per cent of the vote, compared to 33 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu, if elections were held now. Some 20 per cent of voters said they were undecided.

The results show Mr. Barak gaining six points in popularity, and Mr. Netanyahu losing seven points, compared to a Maariv poll a month ago. Elections for parliament and for the post of prime minister are due to be held in 2000 but could be brought forward if the crisis within Likud deteriorates, political analysts say. Maariv commentator Hemi Shalev said it was too early to

tell whether a definitive change was taking place among voters, but "if Barak's lead proves to be true, it means the Israeli public is having a delayed reaction to the crises which have entangled Netanyahu in recent months."

The Likud has been riven by anger over Mr. Netanyahu's autocratic style of governing and his refusal to consult Likud ministers or other leaders on key decisions. Now it also is divided over his plan to give more land to the Palestinians for a quick final peace settlement, despite right-wing objections.

A top Likud official, Science Minister Michael Eitan, believes the deep divisions within the party over Mr. Netanyahu's governing style are far from being resolved despite the resignation of Mr. Netanyahu's right-hand man Avigdor Lieberman.

Mr. Lieberman quit as Netanyahu's chief-of-staff Sunday amid growing anger within Likud over his strong-arm tactics to silence critics of the premier, who came to power in June 1996.

"The malignant metastases of the Lieberman cancer still pervade and infect the Likud organs," Mr. Eitan told jour-

nalists following the appointment of Moshe Leon to replace Mr. Lieberman.

Mr. Eitan announced Thursday his resignation from a committee set up by Mr. Netanyahu to investigate irregularities at a stormy Likud Party convention earlier this month, accusing those close to Mr. Lieberman of wanting to torpedo the panel's work. The commission, which was dissolved after Mr. Eitan's resignation, was formed by the prime minister after several ministers accused him of manipulating the convention to strengthen his control over the party by scrapping a system of primary elections for parliamentary candidates.

Mr. Netanyahu's government is due to undergo another tough test Sunday when his cabinet meets to resume discussion on his proposal for a further troop withdrawal from the West Bank.

A deeply divided Israeli cabinet held a stormy six-hour debate Wednesday on the plan but was unable to take any decisions, officials said.

Hardliners, led by Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, bristled at the idea of yielding any more land. Mr. Sharon accused Mr.

Majority of Israelis support withdrawal

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A narrow majority of Israelis support a limited Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank, in line with proposals by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to a poll published Friday.

Some 52 per cent of Jews questioned said they approved a withdrawal leaving most of the territory in Palestinian hands, while 40 per cent were opposed and eight per cent had no opinion, according to the poll in Maariv newspaper.

Mr. Netanyahu is trying to convince hardliners in his cabinet to accept a one-time, limited further troop withdrawal from the West Bank which would eventually

increase the percentage of the territory under Palestinian control from less than three per cent to as much as 37 per cent.

His ministers meet again on Sunday, when they could take a decision in principle on the proposal. The government is expected to nominate a ministerial committee to set the exact size of the pull-out, according to Israeli public radio.

Mr. Netanyahu said Thursday he was confident the plan would go through, despite strong opposition from rightwingers and Jewish settlers.

The Maariv poll of 500 people has a margin of error of four per cent.

In return Mr. Netanyahu wants the Palestinians to accept an immediate move to final status negotiations.

Israeli minister asks Reform Jews to accept Orthodox control

TEL AVIV (AP) — Reform Jews should adopt the more stringent guidelines of their Orthodox rivals in carrying out conversions, said the head of a government committee trying to reach a compromise between the two movements.

"The state of Israel needs one criterion that will be accepted by everyone," the head of the committee, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, told a convention of the reform movement Thursday night.

"If not, my children will not be able to marry yours... and there will be separate communities with separate membership cards," said Mr. Neeman, who is Orthodox.

The Reform and Conservative streams of Judaism, while predominant in the United States, have little influence in Israel where marriage, divorce and other issues are controlled by the Orthodox. The non-Orthodox have been waging court battle to gain greater recognition here.

Orthodox legislators are threatening to bring down Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government unless he pushes legislation through parliament that will

encode into law a de facto Orthodox monopoly over conversions to Judaism.

In hopes of averting a crisis with diaspora Jewry, Mr. Netanyahu appointed a panel headed by Mr. Neeman in the summer to try and find a compromise.

Mr. Neeman was well received at the Reform convention because he insisted on attending despite pressures from Orthodox leaders that he stay away.

"I think the audience was not listening closely to his message. They were responding to the fact that he participated, and not to his words," said legislator Naomi Chazan, who attended the convention.

"He was justifying the Orthodox hard line with the need for national unity, but there can be no unity without equality," said Ms. Chazan.

Rabbi Uri Regev, head of the Reform Movement in Israel, said he and others had not missed the message, but that they saw the participation of an Orthodox minister in the convention as progress in and of itself.

"We prefer to look at the glass half full, not half empty," Rabbi Regev said.

Douglas denies financing Israeli settlement activity

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Veteran U.S. actor Kirk Douglas has categorically denied reports suggesting that he was a financier for construction of a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

"Mr. Douglas has never purchased land or given money for the purchase of land nor does he plan to do so anywhere in Jerusalem or Israel or the Middle East," his office said, referring to an AFP report citing the Israeli press.

"Ironically, he made a donation some years back for the renovation of a playground in

the Muslim quarter of Old City Jerusalem for the use of Arab children," Mr. Douglas' office said in a statement from Beverly Hills, California.

On Nov. 2, the Israeli newspaper, Yediot Aharonot said Douglas had given a donation to a religious studies institute in Arab east Jerusalem and wanted to help a project to expand housing in the Jewish quarter of the Old City.

Israel occupied Jerusalem during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war but the international community has never recognised its annexation by Israel.

Gunmen disable Somali radio station

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen attacked the north Mogadishu radio station of local strongman Ali Mahdi Mohammad Friday, putting it off the air, witnesses said.

The gunmen destroyed transmitters and the station's electricity generator, they said. The attackers exchanged fire with radio station guards, but initial reports said there were no casualties. North Mogadishu has been

tense since an attack Sunday on the compound of the Italian agricultural aid agency CINS north of the capital. That fighting spread, with the death toll reaching at least 13. Two Italians working for CINS were briefly kidnapped, and all relief agencies working in north Mogadishu pulled their expatriates out. Three gunmen were killed in inter-clan fighting in south Mogadishu on Thursday.



THANKSGIVING IN NEW YORK: An Arthur balloon, centre, floats through New York's Times Square during the Macy's 71st Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday. Winds of up to 40 mph kept the volunteer balloon handlers busy. At least one million spectators were expected to line the 2-mile parade route, city officials said (AP Photo)



Michael Jackson to name second child 'Paris'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson and wife Debbie Rowe plan to name their second child "Paris" for the city where she was conceived. Jackson told KNBC television the couple is expecting a daughter in February, whose full name will be Paris Michael Katherine Jackson. Their first child, Prince Michael Junior, was born Feb. 13 of this year.

Jailed rapist to sue woman for libel over complaints to police

LONDON (AFP) — A jailed rapist is to sue a woman he harassed with letters, for libel, because she wrote to police to complain about his behaviour. Britain's Court of Appeal ruled Thursday that David Daniels had the right to sue. Lynne Griffiths, 38, a married bank worker who was not the rape victim, wrote to police saying she feared she could be the next victim of Daniels, who bombarded her with letters from his Liverpool jail. She said she had been subjected to his unwanted attentions for more than 15 years. Griffiths said she was "devastated and bewildered" by the court ruling. She now faces legal bills of up to \$82,500 to defend herself in a libel action.

Firefighters remove handcuffs from man 'having fun' with girlfriend

LONDON (AFP) — Firefighters thought they had caught an "escaped" convict when a man walked into their station in handcuffs, a military uniform and covered in mud, a fire spokesman said. But a call to his girlfriend revealed the "prisoner" had been "having a bit of fun" with her when the key went missing, said station officer Mick Rowlands in Kidderminster, in central England. A fire crew removed his cuffs with a hacksaw. The mud and the uniform were not explained. "He was very embarrassed," said Rowlands.

Brazilian press ribs Chirac over Mexico gaffe

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Brazilian officials were too polite to mention it, but Brazil's newspapers poked fun at French President Jacques Chirac for confusing the country with Mexico. After meeting Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso during a visit to French Guiana, Chirac said how pleased he was to "meet the Mexican president." The Brazilian delegation pretended not to notice, though the Sao Paulo newspaper spotted Cardoso biting his lip while continuing to smile. The press compared Chirac's gaffe to one committed by then U.S. president Ronald Reagan, when he mixed up Brazil and Bolivia during a visit to Brasilia 15 years ago. "Jacques Chirac is not the worst... For gaffes the Americans cannot be beaten," the Jornal do Brasil commented.

Psychiatrists make great acting coaches

HOLLYWOOD (AFP) — Jennifer Tilly, nominated for an Academy Award for her role in a Woody Allen film, says the only thing that helps with her roles is going to therapy. Like Allen, Tilly depends on analysts, and she thinks it makes her a better actress. "I think that people who go to a psychiatrist are better actors because after they go they can get in touch with their emotions better," Tilly giggles. "Before I went I couldn't cry on cue, but now after a few years of therapy, I can. When you're an emotional wreck in front of people, you get in touch with yourself."

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